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COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 1.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1889.

(In continuation of Colonial Report No. 71, Old Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
January 1891.

LONDON:
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1891.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

No.	Colony.	Year.
69	Trinidad (Tobago)	1888
70	Basutoland	1888–9
71	British Honduras	1888
72	British Guiana	”
73	Western Australia	”
74	Gold Coast	”
75	Sierra Leone	”
76	Gold Coast (Sanitary Reports)	”
77	Hong Kong	”
78	Ceylon	”
79	Fiji	”
80	Lagos	”
81	Victoria	”
82	Leeward Islands	”
83	Natal (Liquor Traffic)	—
84	Hong Kong (Further Report)	1889
85	Bahamas (Fibre Industry)	—
86	Heligoland	1889
87	Newfoundland	1888
88	Mauritius, Seychelles, and Rodrigues	”
89	Zululand	1889
90	Gibraltar	”
91	Grenada	”
92	Bermuda	”
93	St. Vincent	1888
94	St. Vincent	1889
95	Bahamas	”
96	St. Lucia	”
97	British Bechuanaland	1888–9
98	Turk's and Caicos	1889
99	Gambia	”
100	Straits Settlements	”
101	St. Kitts-Nevis	1886
102	Basutoland (Governor's Visit)	1890
103	British New Guinea	1888–9
104	Natal	1889
105	Malta	”
106	British Guiana	”
107	Barbados	”
108	Trinidad and Tobago	”
109	Western Australia	”
110	Gold Coast (Agriculture)	1890
111	Labuan	1889
112	Jamaica	”
113	Falkland Islands	”
114	Basutoland	1889–9
115	Sierra Leone	1889
116	Fiji	”
117	Hong Kong	”
118	St. Helena	”
[illegible]	[illegible]	”

[*Note.*—The Reports on H.M. Colonial Possessions will, in future, be divided into two classes—Annual and Miscellaneous. This Report forms No. 1 of the Annual Series.]

No. 1.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

[In continuation of Colonial Report No. 71, Old Series.]

Administrator MELVILLE to LORD KNUTSFORD.

Government House, Belize,
November 13, 1890.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Blue Book of this colony for the year 1889, and to express my great regret that from unavoidable causes I have been unable to transmit it, with my report thereon, to your Lordship at a much earlier date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. MELVILLE,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.
&c. &c. &c.

REPORT on the RESULTS shown in the BLUE BOOK of the COLONY of BRITISH HONDURAS for the Year 1889.

Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.

The only change in duties during the year was a temporary imposition of an export duty upon logwood at the rate of 75 cents per ton, and upon bananas at the rate of one cent per bunch.

These duties were imposed until the Government was recouped for the cost of the demonetization of the Mexican dollar.

The Treasury rate of the dollar of currency was fixed at 2*s*. 10*d*. for the year, and the *ad valorem* duties were assessed accordingly.

Revenue.

The total revenue for the year 1889 shows an increase of $50,237.24 cents as compared with that of the previous year, which may be explained by increases under the following heads:—

	$
Customs - - - -	45,271.36
Land revenue - - -	3,806.35

Expenditure.

The expenditure of the year was $325,877.36 cents as compared with $297,935.92 cents of the preceding year, which shows an increase of $27,941.44 cents.

This increase is principally due to the cost of the demonetization of the Mexican dollar, about $20,000; to the cost of the survey of Blue Creek, about $3,000.00; and to the additional cost of a weekly mail, about $3,000.00.

Public Debt.

This consists of two loans, one of $55,750.00, raised in the Colony under Ordinance No. 13 of 1885, and another of 9,000*l.*, raised in England under Ordinance No. 1 of 1887. The former loan bears interest at 5 per cent. and the later 4½. There is no difference between this year's statement and that of 1888. The usual provision has been made on the estimate for interest and sinking fund, and investments have also been made by the Crown Agents on behalf of the Government of this Colony for the redemption of these loans in the inscribed stock of New South Wales and Cape of Good Hope Governments under Ordinances No. 13 of 1885 and No. 6 of 1886 and Nos. 1 and 2 of 1887.

Constabulary.

The expenditure shown under this head gives a decrease of about $10,000.00, which is due to the fact that provision was made on the estimate for 1889 for the full strength of the force, to which it has recently attained; but the actual difference in the cost of the force shows an increase of about $5,700.00 for the year 1889, less $1,700.00 repaid to the Government for the sale of stores, &c. issued to the men.

Public Works.

No works of any importance were undertaken during the year except the bridge over "Joe Taylor" Creek at a cost of $912.00, and the second half of Lord's Ridge Cemetery, which is not yet completed and on which has been expended the sum of $1,519.91 cents. The total cost of public works for the year 1889 amounted to $29,986.40 cents and shows an increase of about $1,000.00 as compared with that of the preceding year.

Legislation.

There were 21 Laws or Ordinances passed during the year as compared with 13 in the year 1888, none of which, however, are of special importance, or require particular reference in this report, except perhaps Ordinance No. 1, "To demonetize certain coins," and Ordinance No. 18, "To declare the law relating to marriage."

Civil Establishment.

His Excellency Governor Goldsworthy left the Colony for England on leave of absence on medical certificate on the 30th October, when Mr. Treasurer McKinney, as senior member of the Executive Council in the Colony, in the absence on leave also of Mr. Jerningham, administered the government. Mr. McKinney acted as Colonial Secretary during the absence of Mr. Jerningham on vacation leave to England from the 12th April. Mr. H. C. Usher, District Magistrate of Belize, acted as Colonial Treasurer. The office of Colonial Secretary, &c., rendered vacant by the promotion of Mr. H. E. H. Jerningham to be Colonial Secretary of Mauritius, was filled by the appointment in November of Mr. George Melville, formerly Assistant Government Secretary of British Guiana. Mr. Hoffmeister acted as Chief Justice during the absence on leave to England of Mr. Goodman; Mr. T. H. Parker, Registrar, as Attorney General, and Mr. Bristowe, clerk to the Registrar, as Registrar.

Pensions.

Three pensioners have been struck off the list, the following have died:—Rev. David Arthur, B. A. Cody, and R. S. Weir; and one has been added. J. Gentle, coxswain of the Customs boat. The charge on the revenue for pensions is, therefore, reduced by about $1,100.00.

Population.

According to the returns of the Registrar-General, there is shown in the year 1889 an increase to the population of the Colony of 317, owing to the excess of births over deaths; but after the census of the Colony in 1891 has been taken it is very desirable that provision should be made for the more regular transmission of the quarterly returns of the district registrars.

Savings Bank.

This return shows only the total amount at credit of depositors at Belize, which was, at 31st December 1889, $41,348.76 cents, as compared with $40,628.04 at the same date in the previous year. There are branches of the Government Savings' Bank at Corosal and Orange Walk, but the bulk of the deposits in these branches is remitted to Belize.

Education.

A new school (Church of England) was opened at Corosal in February, and another (Roman Catholic) at Red Cliff in the southern district, besides one, from which no return has been received, by the Baptist Church, at Tilleton in the Northern District, also in September.

Two new schools, therefore, have been properly added to the list for the year. The numbers on the registers show, however, a

BRITISH HONDURAS.

decrease of 11 as compared with the previous year, and the average daily attendance also continues to decrease.

It is evident from these figures that more frequent inspections are required, and while the different denominations are using all endeavours to provide schools in outlying districts, the Government, from the present arrangements made for an Inspector of schools, has been unable to carry out in a satisfactory manner its obligations to encourage, maintain, and test efficient education throughout the Colony.

Draft regulations for the appointment of pupil-teachers will shortly receive the attention of the Executive.

Imports and Exports.

The total value of imports in currency for the year 1889 shows an increase of $384,279, as compared with the similar total for the year 1888; but this increase is misleading as to its extent, as the dollar of currency for the year 1889 was fixed at 2*s.* 10*d.*, whereas in the previous year the Treasury rate was 3*s.* 1*d.*, thus increasing in currency the sterling value of imports.

	$	
The chief increases were, therefore, naturally from the United Kingdom	897,201.00	
as compared with - - -	684,677.00	in 1888;
	212,524.00	
and from the United States -	664,195.00	
as compared with the previous year -	572,851.00	
	91,344.00	

The imports, however, from Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua show very appreciable and *bonâ fide* increases, as the dollar in circulation in these Republics is of the same value as in the Colony.

The total value of exports for the year 1889 shows an increase as compared with that in 1888 of $629,439.00, the total exported in 1889 being $2,155,554.00, and in 1888 $1,526,115.00. This is a very large increase as compared with $176,406.00, the difference between 1887 and 1888.

The increase in the value of exports in the year 1889, which was an exceptionally prosperous one for the mahogany and logwood cutters, is made up chiefly by the following items:—

——	1888.	1889.
	$	$
Mahogany - - - -	179,051.00	361,940.00
Logwood - - - -	547,613.00	807,468.00
Bananas - - - -	155,017.00	177,241.00

The number of bunches of bananas exported to the United States in 1889 was - - - - -	356,285
As compared with - - -	310,034 in 1888
Increase - -	46,251

Shipping.

The total number of steamers and sailing vessels entered at the ports of the Colony in 1889 was 520 as against 463 in the preceding year.

Agricultural.

There are no changes as to cultivated and uncultivated lands and as to the rates of wages for labour; but the rate returned for 1889 as the remuneration per day for prædial labour, 50 cents, is very much understated, as $1.00 per day for an ordinary labourer has been the minimum. The rate paid now by the Belize Estate and Produce Company for a day labourer is $1.75 cents. The returns from the districts of produce, stock, &c. have been received in such an incomplete state for the years 1888 and 1889 that it is impossible to make any reliable comparison of them.

Grants of Land.

The total number of grants made in 1889 was 23 as compared with 12 in 1888, and the acreage shows a total in the year under review of 1,384, as against 204 in the preceding year. This increase is accounted for to a great extent by a grant to the Waliz Fruit Company of 1,028 acres. The survey of Blue Creek occupied the Assistant Crown Surveyor for a considerable portion of the year; and the laying out of lots to be leased by the Crown about five miles up the Stann Creek was the next important work undertaken by the Crown Lands Department. The instructions given to the Department that land in the neighbourhood of the probable line which a railway would take was not to be sold or leased prevented any surveys being made in that part of the Colony; but with the staff of the Department as it at present exists very little can be done as regards new surveys.

Gaols and Prisons.

The total number of persons committed to the different prisons of the Colony in 1889 was 477 as against 548 in 1888. Of the total number of prisoners for 1889, 345 were committed for the purpose of penal imprisonment and 132 for debt or for want of bail.

The re-convictions numbered: once, 64; twice, 16; thrice or more, 11.

Out of the 58 admissions to hospital during the year there were no deaths.

Criminal Statistics.

The total number of offences reported to the police or to the magistrates for the year was 1,963 as against 2,001 in 1888. The total number of summary convictions in the Magistrates' Courts shows also a decrease, the number in 1889 being 1,334 as against 1,463 in the previous year; in the Supreme Courts the convictions were 29 in 1889 as compared with 45 in 1888.

Hospitals.

The number of patients in the Colonial Hospital at the beginning of the year 1889 was 24 as compared with 14 at the same time in 1888; the number admitted during the year, 261 as compared with 314 in the previous year; the daily average in hospital during 1889 was 19·76 as compared with 21·89 in the preceding year; and the number of deaths in 1889 was 37 as against 35 in 1888.

There were on the 31st December 1889 in the Public Hospital, Belize, 31 inmates; in the lunatic asylum, 28, and in the poorhouse, 15; and the erection of a new poorhouse has just been completed.

No return has been received from the Public Hospital, Corosal.

General Remarks.

Judging by the results shown under the different heads of the Blue Book, it can be said that the Colony has shown a most satisfactory progress during the year 1889.

The revenue, imports, and exports, returns are most encouraging; but the plentiful supply of labour which is wanting at present, and which if not soon obtained must at no distant date have a most serious effect on the general prosperity of the Colony, is a matter which deserves the most anxious consideration of the Government.

The progress of the works for the improvement of the town and harbour of Belize have been greatly retarded by this want. The speedy construction, however, of the much-to-be-desired railway in the Colony would of necessity require a large importation of labourers; would be the means of opening up the country and immensely adding to the value of its exports; and would apparently be the only means of averting a long standing menace to the general progress and prosperity of the Colony.

(Signed) GEO. MELVILLE,
Colonial Secretary and
Administrator.

1st November 1890.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

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No. 19.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

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(In continuation of Colonial Report [Annual] No. 1.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

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1892.

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6	British New Guinea	1889-90
7	St. Vincent	1890
8	Bermuda	"
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14	Zululand	"
15	Sierra Leone	"
16	Barbados	"
17	Falkland Islands	"
18	Labuan	"

No. 19.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

[In continuation of Colonial Report [Annual] No. 1.]

Government House, Belize,
July 30, 1891.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1890, together with the report thereon, by Mr. Sydney Olivier, who was acting Colonial Secretary when its compilation was completed.

2. I regret that I have been unable to put your Lordship in possession of this annual return at an earlier date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. W. Melville,
Administrator.

The Right Hon.
Lord Knutsford, G.C.M.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Report to accompany the Blue Book of the Colony of British Honduras for the Year 1890.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit to you the following comments and explanations in connexion with the Blue Book of this Colony for the year 1890, now complete.

A.—*Taxes, Duties, and other Sources of Revenue.*

The taxes levied in the year 1890 were the same as those of the previous year, except that the export duty on logwood imposed in 1889 to meet the cost of demonetising the Mexican dollar was discontinued early in 1890, as soon as the total loss by that operation had been recovered. A Bill was introduced in the Legislature during the year, having for its object a more equitable assessment of the land and property tax, but did not come into operation. (*See* J.—*Legislation.*)

In valuing goods for duties assessed on the value, prices stated in British sterling or United States currency were converted into Colonial currency at the rate of two shillings and ten pence (2*s.* 10*d.*) to the dollar.

The mail steamers from New Orleans and those of Messrs. Williams and Rankine running between New York and Belize enjoyed exemption from light dues and compulsory pilotage, being under contract to carry mails for the Government.

B.—*Fees.*

The schedule of fees is fuller than in former blue books owing to the insertion of some statutory fees hitherto omitted.

C, D.—*General Revenue and Expenditure.*

The total revenue, $332,135.87, though less than that of 1889, exceeded the estimate for the year by $28,583; and it is fortunate that there was this excess, as the expenditure exceeded the estimate by $37,975 and the revenue by $2,245. The excess of the total expenditure, $344,452, as shown in the returns, over the total revenue is augmented by the sum of $10,071 paid out of general revenue balances in the course of the years 1888 and 1889 towards the cost of the Belize town and harbour improvements, and in those years carried to a suspense account as "Advances"; the assumption being that the amount should be repaid to general revenue out of a loan to be raised at some future date. It was, however, judged advisable, at the close of 1890, that these disbursements should at once be brought to account as a final charge against general revenue, no loan having been raised to meet them.

It may be mentioned that similar "advances" have been made to the town of Belize, to the Sanitary Board, and to a railway account, which there are at present no funds to repay, and which have depleted the Treasury without appearing in the expenditure. The advances to the Sanitary Board will be brought to account as expenditure in 1890. Those to the railway account will be left at its debit for the present, as survey operations are in contemplation which may or may not result in the raising of a loan, to which it may be thought proper to charge these preliminary expenses. Suspense accounts of this character in general are objectionable and should be avoided; as they give an opening for the spending of money without proper authority, and in the case of these two accounts it might have been better at once to take votes for the expenditure contemplated.

In spite of these unsecured advances, the balance sheet of the Colony shows a satisfactory excess of available assets over liabilities on the 31st December 1890.

In comparing the Customs revenue of 1890 with that of 1889 and previous years, two preliminary corrections must be made. The temporary export duty already referred to must be set apart (this produced in 1889 $20,113 and in 1890 $1,327), and it must be noted that the receipts of 1890 for import duties appear higher by $9,351 than they would have appeared had the system of accounting observed in 1889 been continued. The Collector of

Customs may and does permit importers to clear their goods on giving 30 days' bills for the duties; and the amount of these bills has until this year not been brought to account as import duties until they were paid, though the goods were at once entered in the returns of imports. The bills received in December 1890, amounting to $9,351, were passed through the Treasurer's accounts as import duties for that year received, and "advances" to the importers whose bills were taken, thus bringing the imports and the duties into accord and bringing the duties actually levied in the year to account within the year.

Allowing for these corrections, it will be seen that the Customs revenue of 1890 exceeded by about $10,200 that received in 1889 from the same sources according to the same system of accounting. The increase is chiefly in the receipts from specific duties, among which those on imported spirits show an advance of $12,446 which by itself would account for the difference. It is noticeable that the total value of the year's imports (*see* W) was less than in 1889. The Excise duty on rum made in the Colony shows a continued tendency to decrease, owing to progressive decay in the sugar industry. The deficit is made good by the increased importation of spirits, and there is collateral evidence that the consumption of alcohol is not on the wane in the increased revenue from licenses to deal in liquor, which advanced from $14,370 to $15,982.50.

E.—*Local Revenue and Expenditure.*

The separation of the funds of the towns of Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk from the general account of the Colony was initiated in the year 1887, and may be said to have been to some extent on trial since that time. The revenues assigned to the town funds are the property tax levied within their boundaries, including the special fire rate in Belize, the license duties on animals, carriages, &c., and market and cemetery fees. The expenditure is controlled exclusively by the Governor-in-Council. In 1889 and 1890 the settlements of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River were created towns by proclamation so as to enable the dog tax to be levied in them, rather as a measure for the public convenience and with a view to abating the number of dogs at large than with any idea of fostering municipal institutions.

The result has been to provide a small revenue available for the improvement of these towns, which has been applied to the widening and straightening of streets, rebuilding bridges, &c.

It will be observed that the town of Orange Walk has a considerable surplus and that Corosal has also a fair balance in hand. It is proposed that such excess of revenue over expenditure shall in the future be applied to the improvement of roads leading to those towns, as well as to public works within their boundaries.

The town fund of Belize, on the other hand, is at present insolvent: the deficit of $1,266 with which it commenced the year having increased to $9,236 on the 31st December, owing to special expenditure on the improvement, repair, and scavenging of the streets, which was incurred chiefly on account of the occurrence of cases of yellow fever during the year. There was further special expenditure on this account by the Sanitary Board who disbursed $1,416 placed at their disposal from general revenue.

The excess of the town expenditure of Belize over the local revenue has been met by advances from general revenue. As the expenditure of the local funds is entirely at the discretion of the Governor and is not subject to the vote of the Legislative Council, it seems advisable that the Legislature should at any rate have some control over the extent to which the local fund is to be permitted to draw upon the Treasury for advances to meet expenditure in excess of its income. There is at present no prospect of the town fund being able at an early date to repay, without increased local taxation, its debt to the general revenue.

H.—*Public Works.*

The construction of a new poor-house at Belize and of a landing jetty at Corosal were the most noticeable of the completed public works of the year. The dredging of the harbour and the filling of low-lying lots in the town of Belize were proceeded with during the year, subject to frequent difficulties and interruptions due to the defects of the dredger employed. Considerable controversy having arisen as to the manner in which the town and harbour improvements had been conducted, and the recurrence of pernicious fever in the town having been attributed to the method followed in their execution, Baron Siccama, who had drawn up the scheme for these works, proceeded, on his own offer, to the Colony to report upon the works. His report pointed to the necessity of considerable further expenditure for the purchase of a new dredger and for the completion of the works in progress.

J.—*Legislation.*

The year was not prolific in legislation owing to the fact that the unofficial members of the Legislative Council tendered the resignation of their seats in April and did not resume them during the year. The only Ordinance of any importance brought into operation was Ordinance No. 2 "to provide for the notification of infectious diseases to the boards of health, both central and local" (there are as yet no local boards of health) "and to "confer additional powers upon those boards." The powers conferred have been exercised by the Central Board of Health in several instances during the year. Ordinance No. 4 provided for a modification of the land tax, but as it was introduced in the Legislative Council without previous publication as required by the Secretary of State's instructions, and was passed in the absence of all the unofficial members, the Secretary of State directed that it should not be brought into operation until it could be considered by them. Its operation was accordingly suspended by Ordinance No. 6, and it was repealed by Ordinance No. 7 in order to enable the land tax for the year to be levied under the law previously in force.

K, L.—*Political Franchise and Councils and Assemblies.*

The Legislative Council is at present composed, in accordance with chapter 2 of the laws of the Colony, of the Governor, as president, four public officers holding seats *ex-officio*, and five unofficial members appointed by the Queen approved on the nomination of the Governor. The Governor's vote and casting vote give the Crown the control of legislation. This power having been exercised by the Governor at a meeting of the Council held on the 16th of April, to procure the voting of a sum of 4,163*l.* adjudged by arbitrators appointed by the Secretary of State to be payable by the Colonial Government to Mr. C. T. Hunter for damages and costs, arising out of the action of the Government in determining his contract for the execution of the town and harbour improvements, the unofficial members tendered to the Governor the resignation of their seats in the Council as a protest against the payment of this award. Their seats remained vacant at the close of the year, though the Queen had not yet formally accepted the resignations of their former occupants.

M, N, O, P.—*Civil Establishments, Pensions, &c.*

There were numerous changes in the *personnel* of the establishment during the year. Mr. McKinney, the Treasurer, was administering the Government on the 1st of January, in the absence on leave of the Governor, whilst acting simultaneously as Colonial Secretary; Mr. G. C. Usher filling the office of Treasurer and Mr. T. Graham (on pension) that of Police Magistrate of Belize. On the 15th of January Mr. G. Melville, newly appointed to be Colonial Secretary, assumed the duties of that office and the administration of the Government. On the 18th of February Sir R. Goldsworthy resumed the administration, which he again handed over to Mr. Melville on the 3rd of October, when he left for England for six months on half salary. Mr. Melville was absent on leave from the 8th of April till the 25th of August. Meanwhile Mr. McKinney had gone on leave of absence on the 1st of August, and Mr. Usher who had acted for him followed on the 29th of the same month, leaving the duties of both the Colonial Secretary and Treasurer to be performed by Mr. Melville with the additional responsibility of administering the Government after the 3rd of October. The Colonial Secretary's Department had already lost the services of both the clerks on its establishment, Mr. Hunt, the audit clerk, having quitted

British Honduras.

the Colony on the 14th of March, and having received promotion to the service of the Bahamas, and Mr. Wright, the chief clerk, having gone on leave for the benefit of his health on the 12th of September.

On the 3rd of November Mr. Sydney Olivier, of the Colonial Office, assumed, by temporary appointment, the duties of Colonial Secretary. He also acted as Treasurer until the 7th of December, when Mr. McKinney returned to the Colony. Mr. Usher resumed his duties on the 29th of December, Mr. Graham having acted for him during his absence. Mr. Young, appointed to be second clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office, arrived in the Colony on the 3rd of November and acted from that date as chief clerk, Mr. J. A. McKinney, of the Revenue Department, acting as audit clerk.

Mr. W. J. Anderson assumed the office of Chief Justice, in succession to Mr. Goodman, on the 24th of May; Mr. Goodman had left the Colony on the 1st of February. Mr. Hoffmeister, the Attorney General, acted as Chief Justice from that date till Mr. Anderson's arrival, his place being filled by Mr. F. W. Maxwell. Mr. Hoffmeister was absent on leave from the 24th of May to the 26th of December, Mr. Maxwell acting for him. Mr. F. H. Parker, Registrar of the Supreme Court, and Keeper of Records, acted as District Magistrate of Belize during Mr. Usher's absence on special duty in March and April, and left the Colony on promotion to the service of the island of Cyprus on the 29th of August. The duties of his office were performed after this date by Mr. L. W. Bristowe, his clerk, to whom the duties of clerk in the district court of Belize had been already transferred by Ordinance No. 5 of 1890, and Mr. Bristowe continued to act as Registrar and Keeper of Records until he was relieved on the 9th of December by Mr. S. G. Woods, who was appointed, at a salary of $2,400, to succeed Mr. Parker. Mr. S. J. Hood acted as clerk to Mr. Bristowe from the 1st of September to the 31st of October and Mr. D. Phillips from the latter date until Mr. Wood's arrival.

There were several changes in the Magisterial Department. Mr. Pickwood, Magistrate of the Northern District, was absent on leave from the 21st of July to the 10th November, during which time his *locum tenens*, Mr. J. W. Standing, died, and the duties of magistrate were performed by Mr. E. A. Schofield and Captain G. C. Bayly, Sub-Inspector of Constabulary. Mr. A. Porter, Magistrate of the Cayo, went on leave on the 16th of May, his place being taken by Mr. R. F. Knollys (Private Secretary, Clerk of Councils, and Inspector of Schools). Dr. Gabb, Magistrate at Stann Creek, died on the 10th of June. Mr. Ross undertook the performance of his duties, but died on the 13th of October, when Mr. W. Bennett took his place. Mr. Porter was appointed to the vacancy and returned to the Colony on the 9th of November. Mr. Knollys on returning to his duties as Inspector of Schools was replaced at the Cayo by Captain G. C Bayly, and this magistracy was filled at the end of the year by the appointment of Dr. J. H. H. Harrison to be district surgeon and district magistrate, with $1,000 a year in each capacity. The district surgeoncy at Stann Creek was abolished and the magistrate's salary raised to $2,000. Captain A. E. Kershaw, Inspector Commandant of the Constabulary was absent on leave from the beginning of the year till the 10th of May, his duties being performed by the Inspector of Constabulary, Captain A. B. R. Kaye, who himself went on leave from the 7th of May to the 7th November. Mr. W. Miller, Assistant Surveyor-General, was promoted to the service of the Bahamas and left the Colony on the 7th of May. Mr. C. R. Usher was appointed his successor at $1,750 a year from the 19th of September. The Surveyor-General's Department was further weakened by the absence on leave of Mr. Blockley, the clerk of the Department, from the 24th of May till the end of the year.

It will have been evident from this recapitulation that the public service of the Colony which, at its full strength, is barely sufficient for the requirements of the public service was during the year 1890 seriously weakened and disorganised by the unusual proportion of absences and changes among the holders of important offices.

As regards Return N, of officers who have given security for their duties, it will be observed that there are several officers who are entrusted with the receipt of public money who had not entered into bonds as required by the Colonial Regulations. In Return O there appears the name of one new pensioner, Mr. E. Adolphus, formerly magistrate of the Northern District. Mr. B. A. Cody's name has been removed from the list by death.

Return P is not very significant or valuable. It is impossible with respect to the important department of the magistracy to distinguish judicial from administrative expenditure, as the magistrates exercise functions both judicial and executive. Moreover, such information as the return purports to give is furnished more intelligibly in the return of expenditure classified according to the new arrangement of the estimates introduced for the year 1891.

Q.—*Foreign Consuls.*

Mr. E. C. Connor was appointed in the month of November to be Consular Agent for France in the Colony.

R.—*Population.*

No attempt has been made to form an estimate of the present population of the Colony. The numbers ascertained by the census of 1881 were 14,108 males and 13,334 females. Registration has only been attended to with any attempt at thoroughness since the year 1885. It will be noticed that the deaths recorded in 1890 exceeded the births by 31. A report of the Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths (the first report yet made) has been submitted for the year 1890.

S.—*Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.*

The number of persons owning land in the Colony increases but slowly, owing chiefly to the preference exhibited for leasing rather than buying Crown lands, a policy which will be commented on below (*See* AA.—*Grants of Lands.*) The small number of paupers is an indication of the ease of living for the bulk of the population. The only persons in receipt of relief are a few aged or incapable men and women destitute of relations able to maintain them. There is no poverty in the Colony: any man or woman willing to work can earn good wages; and those unwilling to hire themselves to employers can support themselves easily by fishing or provision growing, or their combination. There is little immigration, though there is a slight but continuous influx from Yucatan, Guatemala, Honduras and the Bay Islands of a class not very valuable to the Colony. One hundred and fifty labourers were engaged in Jamaica at the end of the year, for importation into the Colony, by the Hull Rope Works Company, for employment on their new plantations at Stann Creek. The chief obstacle to increased immigration from the West Indies, which would be of great advantage, is the absence of communication. Steamers and sailing vessels come to the Colony from Jamaica, Barbados, and elsewhere in the Antilles, but there are no means of returning thither except through the United States, a prohibitive journey, and the course of post to and from these Colonies is also inconveniently long. West Indians will not emigrate to a place from which they cannot get back, though they do well in the Colony when they come.

T, U.—*Ecclesiastical and Education.*

The predominant activity in the Colony of the Roman Catholic Church is conspicuous in these returns. The Wesleyans come next in the extent of their missionary and educational organisation. The Anglican and Baptist denominations do vigorous work with small staffs. The Church of England, which had a long start of the other denominations, has had little success in extending its influence outside of Belize, but has added in this year to its dignity by the creation of a bishop to supervise the priest and the two deacons serving in the Colony. The primary schools of the Colony have been created and are administered entirely by the several religious bodies, but two-thirds of the pecuniary cost of their maintenance are provided from public funds, from which $12,549.68 were expended in 1890. The provision for inspection has been hitherto inadequate, and the officer filling the post of inspector at a salary of $500 was unable, owing to other official duties laid upon him, to complete the annual inspection by the close of the year. The Secretary of State has approved of a salary being provided sufficient to permit the inspector to devote his whole time to his duties, with an allowance for travelling. The number of schools increases steadily. There are now 34 against 27 which were open in 1889 and the number of children on the rolls has increased from 2,569 to 2,943, the average daily attendance being 1,966, distributed as below :—

——	No. of Schools.	Average daily Attendance.
Roman Catholic - - -	12	777
Wesleyan - - - -	12	667
Baptist - - - -	5	250
Anglican - - -	4	231
Undenominational - - -	1	41

It is obvious, however, from these figures that not one half of the children in the Colony who should be receiving elementary education habitually attend school, and that quite a quarter o such number are not on the books of any school.

V.—*Currency, &c.*

The reform of the currency aimed at by the proclamation of Her Majesty dated the 15th September 1887, has so far been effectual that the depreciated fractional coins of miscellaneous New World currencies which formed almost the whole of the coin in circulation at that date have practically disappeared, and there is an abundant supply of good Peruvian, Chilian, and Guatemalan dollar pieces. But the inconvenience of this bulky coinage is considerable, and the payment of large sums can only be made by mule-cart or by the employment of robust porters. The Colonial Government accordingly contemplate taking steps for the issue of silver certificates, based on a specie reserve and investments, which it is believed will be of very great convenience to the public. There is no bank in the Colony, and it would probably be difficult for a new firm to establish a profitable connexion there. Owing to the rise in the price of silver during the year the value of the currency dollar was at times considerably above the Treasury rate of 2*s.* 10*d.* which had been fixed by the price of silver in 1889; and in the month of December, when silver coin is always in great demand for the payment of wages and advances to labourers hiring at that season, its value for the purchase of bills of exchange for sterling on London rose as high as 3*s.* 4*d.* This, however, was an exceptional price for a short period.

W.—*Imports and Exports.*

The value of the trade of the Colony in 1890 compares with that of 1889 as follows:—

——	1889.	1890.
	$	$
Imports - - - -	1,863,327	1,829,480
Exports - - - -	2,155,554	1,866,099

The imports of the United Kingdom decreased by $41,980, the falling off being no doubt due to the drop in the exports. The most considerable decreases in imports were under the heads of boots and shoes, beef, pork, flour, tobacco, and cigars. Of the last-mentioned commodity there was a very remarkable and distressing scarcity at the close of the year. On the other hand, there was a substantial increase in the importation of cotton goods, provisions, soap, and spirits, which would appear to indicate progress in comfort and cheerfulness; and it may be safely asserted that the year was on the whole a very prosperous one, although trade was to some extent checked by the quarantine annually imposed upon the Colony by the port of New Orleans and by damaging and exaggerated rumours as to the prevalence of yellow fever at Belize. The values of the principal exports in 1889 and 1890 were as below:—

——	1889.	1890.
	$	$
Bananas and plantains - -	188,243	190,716
Logwood - - - - -	807,468	811,705
Mahogany - - - - -	361,940	361,953
Total produce of the Colony -	1,437,443	1,310,737

The export of logwood fell from 21,978 tons in 1889 to 18,270 in 1890; but there were upwards of 3,000 tons awaiting shipment in Belize at the close of the year, owing to the expectation of a lowering of insurance premiums in January. There was a falling off in the export of cocoanuts, although there are large plantations giving an increasing yield in various localities. It is to be regretted that the exports of coffee, limes, oranges, pine-apples, rubber, sponges, and many other products which can be grown with very little trouble, show rather a retrograde tendency. Life is so easy in this Colony that the majority are contented with a hand-to-mouth existence, and fruit and vegetables are scarcely to be bought, for lack of care to plant them. The exports of goods in transit fell from $718,111 in 1889 to $555,362 in 1890.

X.—*Shipping.*

The entries of sailing vessels at the port of Belize fell from 353 in 1889 to 344 in 1890, and those of steam vessels were 167 in 1889 and 164 in 1890.

Y, Z.—*Agricultural Statistics, Wages, Prices, Manufactures, &c.*
A, A.—*Grants of Lands.*

The returns submitted of cultivated and uncultivated lands and the areas under the several crops are not very accurate or complete; and the schedule of so-called manufacturing works is perhaps too meagre even for the reality. Speaking generally, it may be stated that cultivation is steadily extending along the sea coast and up the rivers, in the Stann Creek and Toledo districts, especially where the ground has been surveyed, by the taking up of Crown lands by small leaseholders for terms of seven, 14, or 21 years.

This system of occupancy is preferred to the purchase of land; principally, no doubt, because the rent is easier to pay than the purchase money, the price of $2 an acre for Crown lands being apparently prohibitive although $1 per acre is returnable when the land has been improved. On leased land the rent can easily be earned by planting bananas and provisions, and the holding can be abandoned when its first reserve of fertility is exhausted. The Government gains the advantage of a large and increasing revenue from rents of such holdings, but it would, perhaps, be better policy in the interests of the Colony to encourage more permanent occupation and improvement by lowering the price for freehold land. It is a regrettable fact that the sugar industry which once promised so well, and for which the soil of the Colony is so well suited, was practically extinguished, so far as export trade was concerned, by the sugar crisis of 1884–85. Though sugar and rum for local consumption are still produced, the industry is progressively declining, and there is only one well-appointed sugar estate still in operation. The cost and difficulty of obtaining labour is largely the cause of this, as it has been of the failure or neglect of other agricultural enterprises in the Colony. A very promising effort is now being made by the Hull Rope Works Company to establish plantations on a large scale at Stann Creek River, where they have planted a considerable acreage with bananas, henequen, pine apples, tobacco, and other economic plants, meeting the difficulty of labour by importation from Jamaica. The wages of labour are high, taking into account the low cost of living to the creole; but a greater difficulty to employers generally is the shortness and uncertainty of the supply of labourers, and the frequency with which they break their agreements or hire to two or three employers simultaneously, for the sake of the advance they get from each. Reliable plantation labour is more difficult to obtain than labour for wood-cutting works, because whoever can earn wages by agricultural labour for a master can do quite as well on his own account by growing bananas on Crown lands, and generally prefers to, at least in the south of the Colony. The wages of handicraftsmen range from a dollar and a half to two dollars and a half a day for a very moderate standard of performance, the day's work being scarcely half that of an ordinary English artisan. The most efficient bricklayer in Belize was in 1890 an inmate of the lunatic asylum. No sane day-labourer sees any necessity for excessive diligence.

There is probably a considerable amount of cultivation of maize by the Indians in forest clearings of which no account is taken in these returns, and there are no doubt trespasses on Crown lands of this nature, very destructive to the valuable timber on such areas. There is also undoubtedly a considerable amount of logwood, and occasionally other timber, taken off Crown lands without payment of royalty. Such trespasses, whether accidental or deliberate, are very difficult to detect without the employment of special officers for the purpose.

BB, CC, DD, EE.—*Gaols and Prisoners, Criminal Statistics, Hospitals, and Lunatic Asylums.*

There is nothing in these returns which calls for special notice. The number of convictions in the magistrate's courts and the Supreme Court is larger than in 1889, but less than in 1888 and 1886: there is a corresponding variation in the prison returns. As regards the prisons and hospitals it may perhaps be noted here that the Belize Prison and the Colonial Hospital are each a credit to the Colony and to the heads of the Departments in charge of them; their equipment and administration having been immensely improved in the last few years, at very moderate expense.

GG.—*Metereological.*

The table of meteorological observations appears in the Blue Book this year for the first time, and is in some respects incomplete. From this it appears that January was the coolest month and August the hottest of the year, as regarded mean maximum temperatures, but that the mean minimum temperature was lowest in March. The mean maximum in August is given as 91°, the mean minimum in March as 56°. (The last figure seems to me of doubtful credibility; as 56° is exceptionally low for an absolute minimum temperature at Belize.) There was much rain and heavy weather in January and the early months of the year were unusually trying and unhealthy.

HH.—*Savings Banks, &c.*

The deposits in the savings bank amounted to $42,040 on the 31st of December. The amount increases slowly year by year, but the institution is not used so much as might be desired by the class for whose convenience it is intended. The Colonial Government made a profit of $605 on the working during the year, not taking into account the cost of the clerical labour entailed on the Treasury staff.

Concluding Observations.

The general impression produced by a survey of the Colony's history during this year, and by personal experience of its public service and social characteristics, is that during 1890 the settlement has prospered materially, and has been full of healthy life, conspicuously indicated in the character and condition of the majority of its inhabitants. This substantial good fortune has been to some extent overcast and obscured by an unusual prevalence of tropical fevers, which have carried off respected and valuable lives, especially amongst Europeans recently arrived in the Colony.

The prospects of the Colony are for the present fair, but it must be borne in mind that the most important of its exports, logwood and mahogany, are growing year by year more scarce and more difficult of access, and that the agricultural industries which alone can take their place are at present uncreated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SYDNEY OLIVIER.

To his Honour
George Melville, Esq., C.M.G.,
Administering the Government of
British Honduras.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.
1891.

No. 73.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

[For Report for 1890 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 19.]

Sir ALFRED MOLONEY to the MARQUESS of RIPON.

Government House, Belize,
October 31, 1892.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to report as follows on the Blue Book for the Colony of British Honduras for 1891.

A.—*Taxes, Duties, and Fees.*

There has been little change under this heading during the year. Cigarettes and cut tobacco have been added to articles of dutiable imports, and the list of exemptions has been increased in favour of plant for the establishment of electric lighting, building, and filling-in materials, mahogany truck carts, fresh meat, fish and oysters, turtle, passengers' luggage, tombstones, tablets, grave railings, firewood, patterns and samples of no saleable value.

B.—*Post Office.*

This institution is in association with the Customs and Treasury, a combination originally based, doubtless, on economy, but one that cannot be considered as satisfactory as would be a separate establishment.

The Money Order system exists between Belize and the United Kingdom. It was established in 1864; so far it has not been applied to the districts.

The introduction of a system of postal orders between Belize and the districts, but payable at the Treasury and Sub-Treasuries, which is under consideration, would be an undoubted public convenience.

Foreign money orders are issued and received through the General Post Office, London.

The difficulty experienced in making remittances to meet payments made in the United Kingdom on behalf of the Colony considerably contracts the aim and utility of the Money Order system.

C.—*Revenue and Expenditure.*

The estimated revenue was $304,848 and the actual revenue $357,634.01, showing an excess over the estimate of $52,786.01,

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which was due to receipts under Customs in excess of anticipations to the amount of $29,426.54 and to an abnormal sale of surcharged postage stamps to collectors, which realised $23,521.

The actual expenditure, ordinary and extraordinary, of the year was $348,282.98 against an estimate of $390,426.86. The difference of $42,143.12 represented by a saving of $2,294.18 under certain heads of ordinary expenditure of the year, and of $39,849.70 under certain subheads of the vote for extraordinary expenditure.

There was, however, an expenditure during the year of $9,148.01 in excess of certain votes.

The following are comparative statements of revenue and expenditure for 1890 and 1891:—

Revenue.

Heads of Revenue.	1890.	1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Customs	196,371 25	202,426 54	6,155 29	—
Light and Wharf Dues	8,918 04	9,269 22	351 18	—
Internal Taxation	74,731 48	66,892 59	—	7,838 89
Revenue of Government Property	14,082 70	14,691 04	608 34	—
Court fines, fees of office, payments for specific services and reimbursements in aid.	25,960 35	25,815 41	—	144 94
Post Office	5,611 68	27,909 32	22,297 64	—
Interest	1,651 53	1,757 86	106 33	—
Miscellaneous receipts	3,828 59	5,302 53	1,473 94	—
Sale of Crown Lands	1,080 25	3,569 50	2,489 25	—
	$332,135 87	$357,634 01	$33,481 97	$7,983 83

Expenditure.

Establishments and Services.	1890.	1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Charges on account of Public Debt	8,747 57	8,535 71	—	211 86
Pensions	9,018 94	8,860 75	—	158 19
Governor and Councils	18,356 68	19,458 21	1,101 53	—
Colonial Secretary's Department	9,636 90	10,418 58	781 68	—
Auditor and Registrar	1,162 50	2,846 91	1,684 41	—
Treasury, Customs, and Post Office	49,719 09	53,988 79	4,269 70	—
Judicial	13,144 79	14,901 33	1,756 54	—
District Magistrates	15,042 56	16,640 22	1,597 66	—
Constabulary	68,664 07	71,995 40	3,331 33	—
Prisons	15,029 04	15,818 45	789 41	—

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Establishments and Services.	1890.	1891.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Public Health and Hospitals	18,916 86	21,286 29	2,369 43	—
Education	12,549 68	14,674 70	2,125 02	—
Ecclesiastical	450 00	450 00	—	—
Surveyor-General	8,704 57	11,793 27	3,088 70	—
Interest	1,352 67	1,101 91	—	250 76
Miscellaneous	8,894 27	7,861 70	—	1,032 57
Colonial Engineer's Department	6,972 96	7,419 63	446 67	—
Public Works recurrent	21,648 46	14,060 60	—	7,587 86
Public Works recurrent (general, incidental Expenses).	—	80 23	80 23	—
Public Works extraordinary	27,055 05	46,090 30	9,035 25	—
" " " award and costs to contractor.	29,385 88	—	—	29,385 88
	$344,452 54	$348,282 98	$42,457 56	$38,627 12

D.—*Municipal Government.*

The question of the establishment of local government has been and still is under the consideration of the Government. It is generally accepted that there should be an assignment of management and control over their local affairs to the districts, when the capacity of the people to exercise such rights with utility to themselves and to the districts is beyond doubt. Outside of Belize, the capital of the Colony, the circumstances of the centres of districts do not yet justify the establishment of municipal government, but they should be capable of being educated up to the requisite standard through the medium of the Local District Health and Road Boards. British Honduras supplies an example of the aggregation not only of power but also of interest, in the central place of rule.

E.—*Public Debt.*

The Colony had on the 31st of December, 1891, a public debt by loans of $114,128.38 for the repayment of which an annual appropriation regularly proceeds. It approximates but a third of a year's income, a condition of solvency on which the Colony can look with confidence. In connexion with its future development British Honduras can look with comforting assurance to its local resources. It is estimated that there remain unalienated 1,763,842, acres of crown land, the price of which stands at $2 per acre.

F. *Military Expenditure.*

The Imperial troops were withdrawn from the Colony on the 6th of May 1888. There was established a local defensive force, the

British Honduras Constabulary, with its headquarters in Fort Barlee, at Corosal, the capital of the Corosal district, and its chief advanced post in Fort Cairns, at Orange Walk, the capital of the Orange Walk District.

A blockhouse garrisoned by the force stands in a commanding position at August Pine Ridge, 6½ miles from Corosalito on the Hondo, which there divides the Colony from Mexico.

The constabulary, although under military organisation and discipline, is essentially a civil body, and its members are bound to perform all the duties appertaining to the office of a constable.

Comprehensive Standing Orders and Regulations for the information and guidance of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and constables of the force have been drafted and are under the consideration of the Government. Each member has been placed in possession of rules for his guidance in criminal matters. As in addition to English a colloquial knowledge of the language most widely used in the Colony has been considered as indispensable to the efficient performance of their police duties, classes for the acquisition of Spanish have been established at Corosal and Orange Walk.

With the co-operation of the Governments of Jamaica and Barbados, recruiting when vacancies have to be filled up proceeds in those islands.

C.—*Public Works.*

Multifarious have been the duties that have been imposed upon the Department of the Colonial Engineer, who is primarily responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the public buildings, in addition to several other functions. The staff hitherto allowed, though ready and active, has been unequal to what has been expected from its members and to the growing requirements of a progressive Colony.

In addition to such ordinary repairs as could be, under the circumstances, done for the upkeep of the public buildings of the capital and districts, the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements represented the chief service of the year. This most important work was interrupted by the breakdown and condemnation of the old dredger; it was replaced from New Orleans by a Menge dredger, which was put together locally, and began its operations on the 21st November 1891.

Whilst these improvements have made considerable progress, and have contributed mainly to the good health that has prevailed towards the latter part of the year and uninterruptedly since, the amount of work done has fallen short of expectations. The operations of the new dredger had to be confined to filling in and bringing up to the prescribed level the southern foreshore as far east as Bishop Street.

From extra material thrown up certain lowlying lots have also been raised to a sanitary condition. On this service there was expended during the year and met from General Revenue the sum of $40,062.06 which it was intended to defray from the loan for the purpose authorised to be raised under Ordinance No. 10 of 1891.

A pile bridge has been imported to span the river which intersects the Stann Creek Town. Its erection has been delayed, with I fear considerable local public inconvenience, from the want of the necessary skilled labour.

Neither roads nor a road system exists. Land communication, so far as it can be effected, has to depend to-day, as it had to, doubtless, generations ago, on mahogany truck and wing paths on logwood "picados" (machete clearances in forest to admit of mule or donkey passage to bring out logwood to cart roads), and on the primitive forest tracks that are utilised to connect such truck paths.

A survey for a line of railway from Belize to the frontier of the Colony was begun in December under a contract dated the 25th November 1891, entered into by the Crown Agents for the Colonies with Mr. R. W. Starkey.

H.—*Legislation.*

The following Ordinances have been passed by the local Legislature and have received the Royal Assent:—

1. To make provision for the Public Service of the Colony for the year 1891.
2. To confirm and allow certain expenditure incurred for the Public service of this Colony during the year 1890 in excess of the grants for that year.
3. To enable certain payments to be brought to account as charges against the General Revenue.
4. To enlarge the provisions of Ordinance No. 6 of 1889, entitled an Ordinance "to appropriate certain revenues for local "purposes."
5. To amend chapter 83 of the Consolidated Laws, in so far as it relates to Public Office Hours.
6. To provide for the appointment of a Local Board of Health for the town of Belize.
7. To alter the constitution of the Quarantine Board.
8. To amend chapter 93 of "the Consolidated Laws" in so far as the same relates to duties of Customs.
9. To amend chapter 91 of "Consolidated Laws" relating to the Constabulary.
10. To authorise the raising of a Loan not exceeding 20,000*l.*

I.—*Civil Establishment.*

The changes during the year were few.

I was appointed to the Government of the Colony on the 28th February in succession to Sir R. T. Goldsworthy and assumed my duties on the 16th August, relieving Mr. Melville, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who had been administering since the beginning of the year.

Mr. S. Olivier, of the Colonial Office, who had been acting as Colonial Secretary, returned to England in March, from which time until my arrival Mr. Melville performed the combined duties of Administrator and Colonial Secretary.

Mr. Nicholl, Stipendiary Magistrate of Demerara, acted as Chief Justice during the absence, from 31st August to the end of the year, of Mr. W. J. Anderson.

The office of Auditor, which had previously been combined with other duties, was erected into a separate department and Mr. D. Macdonald appointed thereto.

Two assistant surveyors were appointed in the Land Department, Messrs. S. A. Harris and R. H. Franklin, who are under agreement for three years' service.

Other acting appointments made were the late Mr. P. B. Wright to act as Clerk of Councils, and Mr. A. K. Young, second clerk in the Colonial Secretary's office, to act as Magistrate of the Toledo District during the absence of Mr. Travers.

J.—*Pensions and Gratuities.*

The Local Statute Book includes no Pension Act. Retiring allowances have been regulated and accepted under the provisions of the Imperial Act 22 Vict. chap. 26. Such a practice, based as it is on Imperial precedents, has rendered resort to local legislation unnecessary.

For 1891 the Pension list for which the Colony was liable amounted to $9,079.92. There was no addition to it during the year.

K.—*Vital Statistics.*

The Blue Book contains the Census Statistics of the Colony for 1891. The population is returned as 31,471, made up of 16,268 males and 15,203 females, and shows an increase of 14·64 per cent. over its population in 1881, when it was 27,452, composed of 14,108 males and 13,344 females.

At the time of the taking of the Census it was estimated that there were 1,404 men, women and children of the Colony engaged in wood cutting beyond the River Hondo, in the Republic of Mexico. If this estimate be correct the gross population for 1891 may be taken as 32,875 and as having increased 19·75 per cent. within the last decade.

The births registered during the year for the Colony were 1,372, and the deaths 1,242.

The actual population of the Colony was not known at the beginning of the year, so for purposes of rating the figures of the Census taken on the 5th April 1891 have had to be utilised. The birth-rate was 43·60 per 1,000 and the death-rate 39·46. Among the total births the percentage of illegitimacy was 44·31. The death-rate has been considerably swollen from the heavy loss inflicted by an epidemic of small-pox in the Orange Walk district and by the high mortality among children under five years of age, whose deaths for the year have been returned as 696.

Fever, dysentery, small-pox, and debility have been returned as the chief causes of death during the year.

There were solemnised during the year 379 marriages, chiefly among the labouring class, of which 162 were of persons (31 males and 131 females) under age.

L.—*Ecclesiastical.*

The following return of the churches and other buildings used for public worship, and of clergy is compiled from the information kindly placed at the disposal of the Government by the heads of the different Christian religious bodies:—

Denomination.	No. of Clergy.	Churches and other. places of Worship.
Church of England - -	2	8
Roman Catholic - - -	9	47
Wesleyan - - - -	6	15
Presbyterian - - -	1	2
Baptist - - - -	1	7

M.—*Education.*

The religious bodies here are now to be recognised as the popular educators; they are, as such, composed of the Wesleyan, Roman Catholic, Baptist, and Church of England denominations. For some time there was in Belize a Government school, but in 1868 it was closed, because the results did not justify, it is said, the expenditure involved, which it was decided might more properly and profitably be devoted towards assisting the religious bodies mentioned in their educational work and its extension. Since the 1st October 1868 grants in aid of such schools based on average attendance have been made from the Treasury.

There are some twelve private unaided schools in Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk with an enrolment of some 150 to 180.

Tuition is confined, as far as practicable, to English in all assisted schools of the Colony, but the Spanish, Carib, and Maya languages have to be at times resorted to as media of instruction.

The wood industries of the Colony necessitate the annual withdrawal for most part of the year from established educational centres of many children who have to accompany their parents. The question of the extension of some system of intermittent education to those who are obliged to go with their fathers and mothers to logwood and mahogany works has been, and is still, under consideration. Aided schools are in some places so situated as to admit of resort thereto by some of these children, whilst at other points not so fortunately fixed it has been represented that the number of children likely to be found would not justify the cost of the application of such a system even if willing and efficient teachers were available.

Difficulties in the way of education are preference for town to rural life, which is encouraged by the comparative cheapness of living coupled with greater comfort and a condition of social life and general intercommunion that does not obtain in the country; insufficiency of means, and keen competition for the services of the few available teachers, many of whom prefer a store, desk, or mahogany bank, with its prospective monetary and other advantages, even though they be but visionary, to the monotonous, lonely, and somewhat mechanical position of a town or village schoolmaster.

Again there must be recognised the want of roads, the river floods, the scattered distribution of the population, the difficulty of communication at certain seasons, which affects the attendance of children and the visits of the inspector, and entails unavoidable interruption to school work. Another difficulty with which teachers have to contend in the Corosal, Orange Walk, and Cayo districts is the fact that the majority of the children being of Mayo or Spanish descent and ordinarily speaking, as is natural, only these languages have to acquire a knowledge of the subjects specified in the Educational Code through the medium of what is to them a foreign language.

It appears from the Report of the Inspector of Schools that the number of pupils upon the registers during 1891, was 2,994. The average attendance was 2,013 or 67·24 per cent.

N.—*Exchanges, Moneys, Weights and Measures.*

The standard of value is the Guatemalan dollar adopted in 1887 under Her Majesty's Proclamation dated 15th September

1887 and Ordinance No. 1 of 1889; the following are the coins current and accepted as legal tender:—

Coin.	Metal.	Limit of Tender.
Guatemalan Dollar - - - -	Silver.	None
„ Half Dollar - - - -	„	50 Guatemalan dollars
„ Quarter Dollar - -	„	Do.
„ One-tenth Dollar - -	„	Do.
„ One-twentieth Dollar -	„	Do.
Chilian Dollar or Sol - - -	„	None
„ Half Dollar or 50 Centavos -	„	50 Guatemalan dollars
„ One-fifth Dollar or 20 Centavos -	„	Do.
„ One-tenth Dollar or Decimo -	„	Do.
„ One twentieth Dollar or Half Decimo	„	Do.
Peruvian Sol - - - - -	„	None.
„ Half Sol - - -	„	50 Guatemalan dollars
„ One-fifth Sol - - -	„	Do.
„ One-tenth Sol or Duiero -	„	Do.
„ One-twentieth Sol or Half Duiero	„	Do.
One cent. piece of British Honduras -	Bronze	Half Guatemalan dollar

Accounts are kept in dollars and cents.

The general condition of the silver market and its effect on exchange as well as on the local purchasing power of the standard dollar is a matter of anxious concern to every one. A popular movement has begun in favour of a gold standard.

As to weights and measures, the Imperial standard is adopted as a basis generally, but the following Spanish weights and measures are also used:—1 arroba = 25 lbs., 1 quintal = 100 lbs. *Dry Measure.*—1 almud = 5 quarts for corn, 1 caigo = 60 quarts, 1 barrel = 110 quarts, 1 benequen = 55 lbs. for lime; in land measure 1 vara = $\frac{11}{12}$ of a yard, 1 mecate = 22 yards.

P.—*Shipping.*

The total number of sailing vessels entered for 1891 was 312 with a tonnage of 36,089, and the crews amounting to 1,593. In the previous year the numbers under like headings were 344; 33,533; and 1,710.

For those years the British sailing vessels that entered were as follows:—

	Number.	Tonnage.	Crews.
1891 - - - -	127	9,001	615
1890 - - - -	159	9,912	742

In 1891 there were no vessels direct from the United Kingdom. Entries were made chiefly viâ the Republics of Spanish Honduras, Mexico, Guatemala, the United States, and Nicaragua, and the British Colonies of Antigua and Barbados.

The sailing vessels which cleared in 1891 totalled 310 with an aggregate tonnage of 36,475 and crews of 1,616. Of this number 62 cleared for the United Kingdom with an aggregate tonnage of 22,156.

The number of steam vessels entered was 191 with a gross tonnage of 142,515 and a total in crews of 5,238. Of this number the British tonnage was represented by 52,883 as compared with 89,632 foreign, chiefly represented by the steamers of the New Orleans line.

There cleared during the year 189 steamers with a tonnage that aggregated 139,194 and crews that totalled 5,090.

Q.—*Steam Communication, freights and passages.*

During the year under review a fresh contract was entered into with Captain Leitch, as representing the New Orleans-Belize Royal Mail and Central American Steamship Company of No. 36, Canal Street, New Orleans, by which, for an annual subsidy of $20,000, a weekly mail service between Belize and New Orleans is secured. The contract is for five years, computed from the 12th January 1892.

The steamers of the Central American Line from New York, whose office is at 19, Whitehall Street, in that city, also call at Belize about once every three weeks, and the Scrutton and Harrison Line steamers, from London and Liverpool respectively, visit the colony monthly.

R.—*Languages of the Colony.*

The language most widely spread and perhaps known is Spanish, next stands English, and then comes Maya (Indian), and lastly must be placed Carib.

In the Corosal and Orange Walk districts Spanish predominates, although they contain, scattered about, small Indian villages. Maya is the language of the Cayo district, whilst Carib may be associated

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with the capitals of the Stann Creek and Toledo districts, with other small Carib intermediate villages along the foreshore.

In the Toledo district are situate two interesting Indian townships, San Antonio and San Pedro Sarstoon.

S.—*Articles of Ordinary Use and Consumption.*

For residents, intended settlers, and immigrants under agreement, the following average local prices of various articles of ordinary use and consumption may be of convenience for reference :—

Wheaten, ration, flour, per barrel of 196 lbs., $8 to $9.
" family " " " $11 to $12
Wheaten bread, per loaf, 6¼c.
Horned cattle, each, $43 to $46.
Horses (Central American), each, $65 to $80.
Sheep, each, $7 to $10.
Goats, " $3 to $7.
Hogs, " $6 to $18.
Milk, per quart, 25c.
Butter (salt), per lb., 62½c.
Cheese, per lb., 37½c.
Fish (fresh), per lb., 15c. to 18¾c.
Beef, per lb., 18¾c.
Mutton, per lb., 31¼c.
Pork, per lb., 18¾c.
Turtle, per lb., 12½c.
Rice (imported), per quart, 12½c.
Coffee, per lb., 37½c.
Tea, per lb., 75c. to $1.25.
Sugar (raw), per lb., 6c. to 9⅜c.
Salt, per cwt., $1.
Wine, per bottle, $1·25 to $1.75.
Brandy, ***, per bottle, $2.50.
Beer, per bottle, 37½c. to 44c.
Tobacco leaf, per lb., 31¼c.
Charcoal, per bag, of 60 lbs., $1.25.
Lemonade, per dozen, $2.
Sodawater, per dozen, $2.
Ginger ale, per dozen, $2.
Apollinaris, per dozen, $2.25.
Fowls per dozen, $7.50.
Ducks, per dozen, $9.
Pigeons, per dozen, $3.
Turkeys, each, $2.50 to $4.50.
Ham, per lb., 31¼c. to 50c.
Bacon, per lb., 18¾c.
Firewood, per 100 sticks, $1.
Eggs, per dozen, 50c. to 75c.
Fish, per lb., 4c.

Bananas, per bunch (small)., 6¼c. to 18¾c.
Plantains, per dozen, 12½c.
Yams, per cwt., $3.
Pineapples, each, 6¼c. to 25c.
Cassava, 4 lbs., 6¼c.

T.—*Agriculture, Cultivated and Uncultivated Lands.*

It is estimated that the area of the colony embraces 4,839,408 acres, of which by the close of 1891 there were 82,230 leased from and 1,684,941 acres at the disposal of the Crown, whilst 3,075,566 acres were alienated.

The economic cultures of the Corosal district were chiefly Indian corn, sugar cane, bananas, plantains, coacoanuts, henequen, rice, coffee and tobacco: of the Orange Walk district, Indian corn, sugar cane, bananas, plantains, limes and oranges; of the Cayo district, Indian corn, sugar cane, rubber, coffee, oranges, and pineapples; of the Belize district, bananas, cocoanuts, sugar cane, rice, oranges, limes, and pineapples; of the Stann Creek district, bananas, cocoa, rubber, pineapples, limes, oranges, and avocado pears; and of the Toledo district, sugar cane, Indian corn, rice, bananas and pineapples. Rum and sugar are manufactured in the Corosal, Orange Walk, Cayo and Toledo districts.

Proprietors owning land under 10 acres, between 10 and 640 (1 square mile) acres, and above 640 acres, numbered 596; 258; and 46, a distribution of ownership which may be of pecuniary and commanding advantage to a few who will not sell and oppose settlement, but is at variance, in my opinion, with the general local interests when it is remembered that of the colony's area 3,075,566 acres have been alienated. It is not to be expected that townships on private property will be established by tenants at will, nor will property be improved so long as the unearned increment has but one direction. Small proprietors, whether urban or rural, are not encouraged, and gradual depopulation marks this policy. The population of the Corosal and Orange Walk districts were returned as, Corosal 7,330, and Orange Walk 4,109 in 1881, and Corosal 5,544 and Orange Walk 4,943 in 1891; the decrease at Corosal would be more marked were not the headquarters of the constabulary there.

For the opposite picture turn to the zone of Crown land; the population of the Southern district, embracing the present Stann Creek and Toledo districts, has increased from 4,804, at which it stood in 1881, to 6,965; there the growth is at once recognisable among the crown lessees and small proprietors of what was formerly Crown land. An interesting example of this is afforded by the town of Monkey River, with its population of now nearly 700, against 250 in 1881.

U.—*Constitution of the Supreme Court.*

The Supreme Court is constituted by Chapter VIII. of the Consolidated Laws, and has all the jurisdiction, powers, and authorities possessed by the High Court of Justice in England.

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The Court is now presided over by the Chief Justice, but may consist of the Chief Justice and such other judge or judges as may be appointed by the Governor in accordance with instructions from Her Majesty.

The Supreme Court also has appellate jurisdiction over cases determined in all inferior courts and in respect of any misdirections or rulings of the judges thereof.

An appeal lies from the decision of the Supreme Court to:—

(1.) The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.
(2.) The Supreme Court of Jamaica.

by virtue of the Imperial Act 44 & 45 Vict. cap. 36 "An Act to "authorise the establishment of a Court of Appeal for Her "Majesty's Colony of British Honduras."

This Act came into operation within the Colony on the 26th April 1883, under Proclamation dated the 17th April 1883. Since then there have been no appeals to Jamaica. Altogether there have been three appeals to the Privy Council.

The procedure in appeal to the Privy Council is regulated by section 54–61 Chapter VIII. of the Consolidated Laws.

The rules regulating appeals from the Supreme Court of Judicature of the Colony of British Honduras to the Supreme Court of Judicature of the island of Jamaica are dated the 5th February 1883, and were locally published on the 5th May following.

Appeals from all "inferior courts" are regulated by Chapter XII. of the Consolidated Laws. Any person may appeal from the decision of such a court.

The Supreme Court sits as an appeal court on the third Wednesday in every month, if there are any appeals ready for hearing.

There is neither Bankruptcy Law nor Divorce Law in force in the Colony.

W.—*Gaols and Prisoners.*

The gaol in Belize is the central and only prison of the Colony. It is on the separate system and contains 77 cells (male 71, female 6, in separate compounds); to it are committed all assize prisoners. The criminal assize is held in Belize on the first Monday in February, May, August, and November, and at Corosal, the capital of the district of that name, on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October. The condition of this institution reflects credit on the prison authorities.

In the districts there are so-called prisons, but they would be more appropriately described as lock-ups for the confinement of prisoners under sentence of the district court. Such committals are not included in the statistics of the Belize Gaol.

The district courts are courts of summary jurisdiction; the maximum term of imprisonment they can impose is three months. Such sentences are about to be placed by law under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court.

The useful employment and industrial training of the prisoners in the Central Prison is promoted, but there is no system yet established, nor workshops provided. In the districts the prisoners are employed in the service of the prison and on the public scavenging, street repairs, &c. In Belize prison they are employed indoors on their trades, cocoanut-fibre beating, cocoanut-mat making, stone breaking for streets and embankment, hair picking and mattrass making, and in the general service of the prison. Their extern work is confined to the Belize Harbour Improvement, and raising the level of public cemeteries.

For 1891 the daily average in the Belize Goal Hospital was 1·52. General medical statistics of prisoners are in future to be kept and the usual medical reports rendered.

At the close of 1890 there remained in the Belize Goal 63 prisoners, of whom 61 were males and 2 females. The committals during 1891 totalled 122, viz.: 113 males and 9 females. The ordinary discharges were 111 made up of 109 men and 2 women. From the male prisoners there were three escapes, one recapture, and three deaths returned as from natural causes. There have been three cases of flogging, one by order of the Court, two under the authority of the Visiting Justices.

There remained in this prison, at the close of 1891, 51 prisoners, viz., 49 men and 2 women.

The question of further promoting the general efficiency and utility of the Prison Administration is under the consideration of the Government.

The local system of remission of sentences under license is provided for in Rules for the Government of Prisons passed by the Governor in Council, under the provision of Chapter 77 of the Consolidated Laws, on the 15th December 1888

The general situation may be outlined as follows: —

(*a*) Penal servitude is not a punishment authorised by law, but imprisonment with hard labour is substituted

(*b*) Any prisoner sentenced to imprisonment with hard labour for a period exceeding three months can earn a remission of his sentence.

(*c*) Remission of sentence is earned by industry and good conduct combined.

(*d*) The maximum remission obtainable is one-fourth of the sentence (for male and female prisoners alike).

(*e*) No difference is made between the first and subsequent offence.

(*f*) Nothing in the Regulations precludes the earning of marks by and grant of remission to re-convicted license holders serving the remanents of former sentences.

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X.—*Public Institutions.*

The Hospital, Lunatic Asylum and Poor House comprise the above, and are established in Belize; they adjoin and intercommunicate, each standing in its own grounds.

The first institution is the General Hospital of the Colony; it is also resorted to by sick persons from the neighbouring Republics. There is no extern department. A village or district hospital exists at Corosal. Suitable branches are being established in the remaining districts of the Colony, and extern treatment for the poor will be in future a feature in the general administration.

No accommodation for contagious or infectious diseases has as yet been provided; its supply is under the consideration of the Government.

There remained on the close of 1890 in the General Hospital 23 patients, 18 males and 5 females.

Admissions during 1891 totalled 315, composed of 286 males and 29 females. There were during the year 33 deaths, 26 males and 7 females.

Poor House.

Paupers, certified to be so by a justice of the peace and a householder, and by an inspector of police, are admitted into the Poor House by authority of the Governor. They are expected to render assistance, as far as they may be able, in carrying out the internal economy of the institution, and to obey orders given them by the Medicial Officer; on failing to do so they are liable to be discharged.

Lunatic Asylum.

Admissions into the asylum are made under the provisions of chapter 76 of the Consolidated Laws. In 1891 there were 5 admissions, 3 deaths and 2 discharges.

Y.—*Meteorology.*

The highest atmospheric pressures in Belize marked by the barometer were from December to April, the lowest during June and October.

The mean pressure of the year 1891, 29·93, is very near that of the preceding years, and if the average of four years is taken there results 29·94 as the mean pressure of the Observatory of St. Joseph April had the great range 0·63 in the movement of the barometer from 30·22 to 29·59. A sudden descent from 29·78 to 29·95 on the 24th followed by a very rapid rise gave this unusually high range. This rapid movement was due to a severe hurricane raging in the Gulf of Mexico, and was notified locally by the N.N.E.

wind, which suddenly began to blow with a force of 14 miles an hour after the S.S.E. had been blowing nearly all the day with moderate force.

The annual mean temperate was 79°, which when compared with the preceding three years, gives a mean of 79·5°. The minima were milder than in the previous years, the maxima never exceeded 92°, and the range of the thermometer for the whole year was 29°.

The predominant wind was E. In ten out of the twelve months this, either directly or veering now towards the N., now towards the S., was the prevailing wind, whilst from October to December a N.W. predominated, blowing with a moderate force. S.E. and N.W. are generally in opposition, and as soon as one ceases to blow the other begins with a certain regularity.

The rain was distributed in unequal quantity in the two halves of the year. The number of rainy days in the year was close on 160, and the quantity of rain nearly 72 inches, yet at the end of June there had been only 46 days of rain with 10·19 inches. The balance to make up the average rainfall of the year had to be expected in the last six months, and in fact by the end of December we counted 110 days more of rain with 60·64 inches, making a total of 71·19 inches of rain in 156 days.

The sky was very seldom perfectly clear. Cumulus and Stratus were the prevailing forms of clouds, usually covering from 5 to 10 parts of the sky.

The hygrometric state of the atmosphere has been persistently high, the psychrometer never showing less than 70° of humidity and seldom falling below 80°, but generally running between 80° and 94°. Hence the constant dampness of the climate, caused by heavy rains followed by great heat.

Z.—*Savings Bank.*

This institution is in association with the Treasury, and was established in Belize in 1846, and was extended to Corosal and Orange Walk in 1881.

The minimum deposit is fixed at $1, the maximum in one year is not regulated by rule or law, but the total amount that may be deposited is limited to $500. The rate of interest is three per cent. per annum.

To encourage thrift and to promote the public convenience the facilities now available for the deposit of money are to be enlarged, and branches will be opened on the 1st of December next in Stann Creek, Punta Gorda and the Cayo.

A 1.—*Telegraphs.*

The Colony has no direct telegraph communication, nor any internal telegraph system; both services are under consideration, and it is hoped, as it is desired, that before long British Honduras will be connected by cable with the outside world. At present messages from or to the Colony are sent by post, by means of the contract mail steamers to or from New Orleans.

B 1.—*Geology.*

The literature of the geology of the Colony of British Honduras, notwithstanding its contiguity to the Republics of Mexico and Guatemala, to the mineral wealth of which may be ascribed their present comparatively forward state of development, may be viewed as nil. There has been, however, a beginning in the survey of the late Mr. C. H. Wilson, who, unfortunately for British Honduras, died in 1887.

His geological work began early in 1886, lay between 16° and 17° 10′ North latitude, and was conducted inland along the valleys of the Mullins, Stann Creek, Monkey and Deep Rivers. In the interest of the Colony this important service should be resumed and continued as soon as practicable.

There has been since made (April 1888) a flying survey along the valley of the Sittee River to the Cockscomb Mountains, which reach an elevation of 3,700 feet.

In Lock's big treatise on gold, published by Spon in 1882, there is a section devoted to British Honduras.

C 1.—*General.*

The commercial prosperity of colonies which depend on one or a limited number of articles of export is liable to disastrous fluctuations. Striking instances are to be found in the ruin of a once extensive trade, that had been confined to a single commodity, from competition and the inevitable fall in price, from the ravages of rats or locusts, or a single blight. So far British Honduras would seem to have stood exceptionally in the Colonial Empire in having for the past two centuries relied almost entirely upon its forest produce and on its rivers as means of transport to the sea. Some of our West African Possessions have stood somewhat similarly since palm oil succeeded the slave export trade; that industry is now seriously threatened by animal fats and other sufficiently available and equally suitable commodities. One of the extracts from coal tar practically killed the once flourishing and profitable cochineal trade, and also affected the indigo trade of India. Beet has contributed to the depression of the sugar trade. The substitution of iron for wood in ship-building, particularly in men-of-war, almost killed the large timber export trade of the Gambia and West Africa, which is *also* noted for its mahogany, cedar, rosewood, dye and other woods; the marked and progressive revival of that trade and the dimensions it is assuming must naturally be a subject of direct concern and anxiety to all wood-cutting centres.

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Mahogany and logwood trees have been for several generations the principal articles of commerce in these parts, but they are said to be getting more and more difficult of access and consequently more expensive to work and get to the market.

The value of these industries is not for one moment questioned. On the contrary, it is highly desirable to promote them and to protect the forests on which they depend. The Colony's motto, "Sub umbra flores," should have now a more extended application.

In view, however, of such experiences as have been referred to, it has been generally accepted that even in commerce it is a hazardous experiment to "carry your eggs in one basket."

As a guide in establishing profitable industries we must look to the source of supply, the prospects and disposal of growth, and the area of the field of demand. It has now become a generally accepted policy in the Colonies to encourage the production of varied staple articles of export of a more or less permanent character. Much has been done in this direction by the active interest and assistance of the authorities of the Royal Gardens at Kew to develop new industries and to distribute plants of commercial importance. With this objectth ere have been established in all our West Indian possessions botanic stations. A similar institution has been established as a tentative measure in Belize, the capital of this Colony, which has such exceptional advantages whether we look to climate, soil, or a market. It has with some justice been advanced that British Honduras can be made the tropical garden of North America, and it may be remembered that 28° North is generally accepted as the frost line, which may be said to mark the limit northwards within which the growth of economic products in demand can be profitably undertaken.

And again, as to fertility of soil, what more convincing proof can be advanced than the facts that in the sugar areas to the north and south of the Colony cane has been known to "ratoon" from 20 to 30 years, and that in the rich and naturally fertilized valley beds, bananas have repeated themselves without degeneration for 10 to 12 years, if not longer.

The products of its cultural industries, still really in their infancy, are chiefly bananas, plantains, cocoanuts, coffee, henequen—Indian corn, limes, mangoes, oranges, sour and sweet, pine-apples, avocado pears, rubber, to which there should be added in time arnatto, cacao, coir, ground-nut, indigo, jute, pita, ramie, spices, vanilla and doubtless other promising marketable commodities.

To the small extent to which the banana has been successful to the north of the frost line referred to, where it will always be a precarious crop at best, it has proved inferior in quality to the West Indian and Central American fruit. Whilst in 1879 it did not appear among our records its export was represented by 72,436 bunches in 1891.

The plantain is a staple of food over a large section of Negroland in West Africa. The descendants of its interesting people to the north of of the Gulf of Mexico represent a consuming power of nearly 9,000,000, if the coloured population there have shown by 1890 the same growth it did for the decade which ended in 1880. Tons of this fruit from Cuba and elsewhere meet with a ready sale in Florida. The Colony's shipments to New Orleans rose from 50,000 plantains in 1879 to 1,580,200 in 1891.

The home of the cacao is Central America. Several valuable species are said to belong to British Honduras and include that which is said to be the best in a marketable sense. Notwithstanding it may be said to be here remarkable by its absence from the export cultures of the Colony which have grown in value, in round numbers, from $12,000 in 1879 to $296,665 in 1891. Yet, in the island of Grenada, of the West Indies, and but 5° to 6° to our south, and with an area of 133 square miles and an estimated population in 1889 of 50,000, cacao has developed into its main export, which reached in 1890 a value of 228,319*l*.

The clover-like ground-nut, so desirable as a pasture where the bread-nut is not available, apart from its valuable tuber, and henequen would seem to be admirably suited for growth in the pine ridges, as does also the Ceara rubber. That interesting orchid, the vanilla, whose home is also in Central America, is one of the most valuable products and has near to hand a rich and ever-growing market. Its cured pod fetches as much as 30*s*. per lb. It is a plant easily propagated by means of cuttings, and has developed into a considerable export from Vera Cruz.

Our Guatemalan neighbours seem to turn no small attention to cultivation of the coffee arabica. Whilst it will doubtless prove suitable to the high areas of the Colony, the introduction of the hardy and rich Liberian coffee—so well suited to low-lying areas, with its comparatively heavier crop, averaging from 6 lbs. to 8 lbs. per tree, 400 of which can be accommodated on each acr — should receive the consideration it deserves. Judging from the exports from India, and the imports to the United States, there is a promising field of demand offered in the direction of the latter for the growth of such commodities as jute and other fibres, indigo, ginger, and spices generally.

The cohume oil industry remains yet dormant, if I except the use for domestic and cooking purposes to which it is put among the families of mahogany and logwood cutters. Two-fifths of the Colony, viz. 1,933,762 acres, are, it is estimated, under this graceful "Prince of Wales" palm. If we allow 25 trees to the acre, a very low average, and 1,000 nuts as the annual yield per tree, and accept that 100 nuts yield a quart of oil, this dormant industry, if awakened to full activity, would yield 276,537 tons of oil at a price per ton appreciably above that which obtains for cocoanut oil, to which it is superior.

Then, again, apart from its resinous property, which was turned, I understand, to profitable account some years back, the pine, it is estimated, covers a third of the Colony, or, 1,613,136 acres, and averages 100 trees per acre on our great southern pine-ridge, much more in other parts. Its wood is said to almost equal that of the yellow pine of the United States, which, in the beginning of 1888, was reported to have been nearly worked out and might, in part, have to be replaced by the local pine. The growth on the older pine ridges of the Colony may, when opened up, prove of sufficient age and diameter to make it worth while to have attention turned to adding this timber to our exports, as can doubtless be done with many other valuable woods as yet unknown.

In Scandinavia, apart from its extensive export as a wood, from its wide use in the manufacture of matches, or from the value of its resinous properties, the pine pulped has been most profitably utilised in the manufacture of a commodity that has developed into an important rival to paper.

The coral patches and marine islets we know as "Cays," that fringe to the eastward the waters of this Colony, offer a condition of site exceptionally favourable for the growth of henequen and the cocoanut tree, described as the most tender of palms as regards frost, the friend of tropical agriculturists. The area of such Cays is given approximately as 112,527 acres which might be turned to much more profitable uses and yield than obtain at present. With even a quarter of such acreage suitable for the culture of such products as cocoanuts and henequen, it could be covered with plantations of the former numbering 2,813,200 trees with an annual yield of at least 100 nuts (a low average) aggregating 281,320,000, worth, at the current rate per thousand, 1,406,600*l.*, and in a condition clear of the fibrous exterior that yields the coir of commerce, here usually thrown away or associated occasionally with mahogany chips and conch shells to fill up low-lying lots. Now I should explain that such an aggregate of nuts on the basis of 1lb. from 7 nuts or 14 per cent. fibre, should yield 18,000 tons fibre that would realize in the London markets, from 30*l.* to 10*l.* per ton according as it is suited for brushes, mats, or stuffing.

The annual export from the Colony of cocoanuts during the past five years has averaged in number 1,651,933, and in value $32,505.

That delicious fruit, the sapodilla, if picked green, will stand shipment: the tree abounds in this Colony, and, apart from its valuable and durable wood, yields an extract which contributes mainly to the manufacture of what is advertised and so widely used in the United States as "chewing gum."

Then, again, trees yielding the pimento of commerce abound in a wild and unappreciated state, yet this spice was exported from Jamaica to the value of 81,326*l.* in the year 1890–1.

Local prospects and foreign demand seem sufficiently encouraging to justify the establishment in these waters, on a stable and profitable basis, of a sponge industry. Varieties ranging from yellow or "Grass" to "Sheep's Wool" are said to be identical with those of the Bahamas and of Florida, which fetch from 25 cents to $1.20 per lb. in United States currency. Exhibits from British

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1891.

Honduras at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886 attracted marked attention, and were pronounced as excelling in quality contributions from neighbouring and established areas.

The Bahama industry, which is said to have begun about 1842, has grown to be worth approximately 60,000*l.* per annum. In 1852 it was followed by Florida, and with about the same monetary result. There, some 6,000 spongers of Bahama origin, born and bred to the work, are employed over an area of about 3,000 geographical miles, or 2,208,920 acres. The area of the marine waters of this Colony has been returned as 2,464,000 acres, and while I am not prepared to maintain that our virgin sponge grounds are so large, sufficient proof has been experimentally afforded to justify the conclusion that rich crops are locally available and only wait to be reaped.

The survey for a line of railway to the frontier of the Colony has been entered upon. The result will help materially to guide the decision whether or not this Colony can in the near future undertake such an enterprise, which it is generally acknowledged is essential to open the locked-up Crown Lands to the South and West that have been for generations and are practically a "terra incognita," and likely to remain such without a railway; to encourage further the introduction of capital and labour; to tap and afford means of transport to rich timber areas hitherto, if not unapproachable, at least unworkable from their inaccessibility; to promote in its rich and naturally fertilised valleys the extension of small economic cultures and general agricultural industries; to develop its mineral resources in the only direction in which prospecting has so far looked with favour; and to enable the interior of the Colony to be reached, where the climatic conditions will admit, it is said, of foreign and indigenous settlement.

If any railway converging towards British Honduras could be met by the extension of a local line beyond the Colony in whatever direction may prove practicable, the advantages would be great not only to our friendly and interesting neighbours, but to the Colony itself, and Belize might be re-established as an entrepôt for Southern Mexico and no small portion of the northern part of the Republic of Guatemala.

The American inter-continental line alleged to be contemplated would seem to indicate as its intended course the Western or Pacific slope or base of the central Highlands that represent the back-bone of the isthmus that connects North with South America.

Whilst any such line, if ever constructed, would not fail to be of moment here, the interests and position of the Colony lie so much to the eastward, and along the opposite slope of the great watershed referred to, as to preclude, I fear, the hope of any connection with such inter-continental scheme, so what comes more directly home to be considered is, what can the Colony do for itself and how soon?

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1891.

Again, the value to the Colony of, say, a branch service along the valley of the Upper Sibun River through and into Crown lands is evident. The Cockscomb Mountains, with their mild summer climate, will prove to be valuable in the future, whether for planting, for summer residences or winter resorts, if not for more; they should be the Simla certainly of this Colony if not of Central America; of varying altitudes that reach 4,000 feet, of easy gradients, only 25 miles west from the coast line, and but 73 miles from Belize by the railway route suggested, with a mean temperature, based upon the observations taken during the expedition to them in April 1888, of 68° in the morning and 75° in the evening as compared with 78° and 80°, the mean at Belize for the same period in the same year, and from observations taken at the same hours.

The Colony is still undeveloped, and it is expedient not only to advertise the Colony's capabilities but also to devise and afford facilities and means to development. The public debt, for the repayment of which the necessary provision is regularly made, approximates but a third of a year's income. It may be said that ample means present themselves for consideration at the proper time for supplementing the ordinary revenue on a basis financially sound enough to justify the undertaking of such projects as now would seem to be generally acknowledged as necessary for initiating the more active opening up, and for assuring the subsequent steady development, of this rich Colony.

Such a conclusion seems reasonably justified when we recognise that the Colony embraces 4,839,408 acres, of which 3,075,566 are alienated, that apart from taxes known as local funds, which are devoted to, and should aim at sufficiently meeting, local purposes, the revenue derived therefrom has averaged annually for the past five years, $11,540 or 1,731*l.*, or about one-half a farthing an acre, although the export value of so much of the out-put from this Colony, free from stamp, income, export, and almost any direct tax, of Nature's spontaneous yield as is represented by its chief timber and dyewood trade, has for the same period averaged $936,936.

In view of the area of the Colony and of the paucity of its population, the importance of effecting an increase to the local labour market is beyond question. How its supply both in the matter of direction and cost, can be systematically effected is entitled to careful consideration.

The question of importing labourers, especially of the agricultural class, is a long-standing and burning one. It remains unsolved and yet is of primary and pressing importance. The comparatively high tariff of the local labour market has not proved sufficiently attractive to initiate spontaneous immigration from the West Indies, even of an annual harvest kind such as obtains between Barbados and Demerara. Owing to the Colony's area and its population (31,471, which it has only reached from 25,635, at which it stood in 1861) there is little hope of future development if it has to depend on the growth of its own people, who are now fully occupied within a very contracted area of activity.

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To promote any system of immigration the inducements to labourers and settlers must be greater than obtain at present, and constant, and its first cost must be State-aided out of the General Revenue in such proportion as to be fully recouped beyond doubt in time by the additional revenue that will be derived from the increased consumption of imports.

The construction by means of imported labour of the railway, should circumstances justify the undertaking, and the establishment, if the inducements that offer at both ends prove sufficiently encouraging, of direct steam communication with one of the West Indian islands, where redundancy of population favoured immigration, would appreciably contribute towards solving the question.

Further, it is worthy of consideration whether Kroomen, who are the labour back-bone of some of our West African colonies and possessions, who have been wont for generations in the tropics to supplement our sailors on board of vessels of war or of the mercantile marine, who are accustomed to go away thousands of miles from their homes on engagements of one or two years, so implicit is their confidence of their usage under the British Flag, and of whom this Colony has a very favourable and deserved opinion from the few industrious and exemplary members of that race at present here, may be induced to come across under like circumstances from Africa for a definite period with free passages to and fro and the guarantee of immediate employment on their arrival.

An exceptional system of advances has obtained and obtains in this Colony. It seems to have originated with the object of extending consideration, and very rightly so, to the circumstances and conditions of the working classes so as to enable them, absent as they are for most of the year, on mahogany, logwood, and planting areas, to make provision in anticipation for their own current wants, as also for those of their families who may be left behind in their fixed home. When we remember what their savings should be, represented by their accumulated wages, which could be devoted to similar purposes, it seems open to question whether the continuance of the system in the stage it has reached accords with its original object, whether it is further necessary, and, if so, in what modified form, as the time may appear to have arrived when it can be regarded as not altogether in accord with the best interests generally of those whom it was intended originally to serve, as opposed to thrift, and indeed as a premium, in some instances, on extravagance, improvidence, and questionable practices, and further as undermining individual independence.

Whilst on this subject I may refer to the absence from the statute book of any bankruptcy law, the equitable principles underlying which seem to have become of universal acceptance elsewhere in the interests of creditors as well as in legal relief to the debtor whose misfortune may be beyond question. It is of no present advantage to consider whether the general interests of the

Colony have been such as not to have required such protective legislation in the past; whether the circumstances and future of the Colony will not be advantageously served and promoted by a resort to such at no distant date, is worthy of attention and consideration more especially when the fact is remembered that it is, I understand, of no infrequent occurrence for one creditor to get the whole of the debtor's property to the exclusion of all other creditors.

In the general relationship between tenant and landlord, whether Crown or private, the growing tendency of resort to written leases is of sufficient importance to be here noticed and deserves encouragement in the interests of fixity of tenure and of public confidence and credit which are its natural sequence, as well as of the agricultural development of the Colony. Although I should add that advantage seems to have been taken but in very few cases of the provision of the law as regards the record of such documents on which their validity is based. The question of compensation for any unexhausted improvements on expiry of such leases or on determination of holdings is one equally important.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

The Most Hon.
The Marquess of Ripon, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

No.	Colony.	Year.
37	British New Guinea	1890–91
38	St. Vincent	1891
39	Bermuda	"
40	Seychelles, and Rodrigues	1889 and 1890
41	Gambia	1891
42	Barbados	"
43	Turks Islands	"
44	Bahamas	"
45	Fiji	1890
46	Seychelles	1891
47	British Bechuanaland	1890–92
48	Malta	1890 and 1891
49	Gibraltar	1891
50	Falkland Islands	"
51	Leeward Islands	"
52	Grenada	"
53	St. Lucia	"
54	Labuan	"
55	British Guiana	"
56	Zululand	"
57	Mauritius	"
58	Lagos	"
59	Straits Settlements	"
60	Ceylon	"
61	Natal	1891–92
62	Basutoland	"
63	St. Helena	1891
64	Sierra Leone	"
65	Jamaica	1891–92
66	Trinidad and Tobago	1891
67	Newfoundland	"
68	British New Guinea	1891–92
69	Victoria	1891
70	Rodrigues	"
71	Bermuda	1892
72	Fiji	1891

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

[For Report for 1891 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 73.]

Acting Governor Sweet Escott to the Marquess of Ripon.

Government House, Belize,
September 19, 1893.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the British Honduras Blue Book for the year 1892, together with my report thereon.

2. The completion of the Blue Book has been delayed by the absence of an Auditor, and the additional work thus thrown on the Treasury of the rendering of certain financial returns, and by the weakness of the staff in the printing office. The last return for the Blue Book was received by me from the printer on the 15th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. Sweet Escott,
Administering the Government.

Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of British Honduras for the year 1892.

Taxes, Duties, and other sources of Revenue.

A few changes were made in the taxes and duties levied in 1892, as compared with those in force in 1891.

By Ordnance 6 of 1892, the license on dogs was reduced from 3 dollars to 1 dollar a year, and by Ordinance 36 of 1892, navy bread and pilot bread, fish, salted, wet or dry, rice and salt in bulk, which had formerly paid duty, were admitted duty free, whilst revolvers and rifles were added to dutiable articles, and the duty on sparkling and still wines was increased from 1 dollar and 50 cents respectively to 1 dollar 50 cents and 1 dollar.

The light dues on all vessels of 5 tons and upwards entering from seaward are 12½ cents per registered ton, but Her Majesty's

Ships of war and transport ships, ships arriving in distress and neither landing cargo for sale or consumption nor taking on board any additional cargo, and ships carrying mails under contract with the Government of this Colony are exempted from light dues.

For purposes of valuing goods on which duty had to be paid the dollar was taken as worth 3*s*.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total Revenue for the year was $338,659.98, whilst the total expenditure was $373,719.01, showing an excess of expenditure over Revenue of $35,059.3, but if $11,822.14, the amount spent from balances on Public Works Extraordinary, and $40,072.29 which were expended on the improvements of the Belize town and harbour are deducted ftom the ordinary expenditure, there is a balance of $16,835.40 in favour of Revenue over ordinary expenditure. In 1891 the Revenue amounted to $357,634.01 and the total expenditure to $348,282.98, and thus whilst the Revenue for 1892 was less than that for 1891 by $18,974.3, the total expenditure for 1892 exceeded the total expenditure for 1891 by $25,436.3.

The principal sources of revenue in which there was a falling off in 1892 as compared with 1891 were the Customs receipts, light and wharf dues, licenses to cut timber, and the Post Office. In 1891 the amount collected by the Post Office was $27,909.32, and in 1892 $7,779.61. The large amount received in 1891 was due to an abnormal sale of surcharge stamps.

Assets and Liabilities.

If the general account of the Colony alone is considered, the Assets show an excess of $8,133.20 over Liabilities on the 31st December 1892, the former amounting to $100,123.77, and the latter to $91,990.57, but if the Savings Bank and Public Debt accounts are also taken into consideration, there is an excess of accruing liabilities of $27,403.17 over the total assets of the Colony.

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

By Ordinance No. 32 of 1892 all moneys received on the issue or transfer of liquor licenses are placed to the credit of the different towns in the Colony, namely, Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Mullins River, Stann Creek, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda, according to the place where they are received, and, in the case of the Cayo District, to the local fund of that district. Similarly these local funds, with the exception of that of the Cayo, are also augmented by the receipts from the dog tax leviable under Ordinance 6 of 1892. The local fund of any town is appropriated and applied generally in the district within which such town is situated, as the Legislative Council determines.

In Corozal and Orange Walk a property tax and market rents increase the local funds of these two districts, whilst to the revenue of the town of Belize are added, in addition to the property tax and market rates, a fire rate, license on horses, mules, asses, carriages, drays, and drivers, slaughter house and cemetery fees. The funds appropriated to the districts are generally expended on the recommendations of the Local Board of Health and Road Boards, which are annually appointed by the Governor under Chapters 39 and 80 respectively of the Consolidated Laws. On the 31st December 1892, each town had a balance in its favour which was carried over to the year 1893, and was as follows:—

	$	c.
Town of Belize - - - -	6,266	44
Town of Corozal - - - -	3,367	22
Town of Orange Walk - - -	3,664	50
Town of Stann Creek - - -	622	51
Town of Mullins River - - -	692	50
Town of Punta Gorda - - -	378	00
Town of Monkey River - - -	783	00
The Cayo District - - -	600	00

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st of December 1892 comprised a loan of $55,750, raised in 1886 for improvements in the town and harbour of Belize, on which interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is paid, and a further loan of 9,000*l.* raised for the same purpose under the provisions of Ordinance 1 of 1887. On account of the sinking fund on the first loan the Crown Agents on the 31st of December 1892 held securities amounting to 1,890*l.* 7*s.* 9*d.*, and on account of the sinking fund of the second loan securities amounting to 844*l.* 8*s.* 10*d.* and cash 9*l.* 16*s.* 1*d.*

Local Board.

In Belize the Local Boards consist of the Commissioners of Roads, of whom the Governor is President, the Quarantine Board, and the Local Board of Health, whilst in each of the districts there are a Local Board of Health, under the Governor in Council, acting as the Central Board of Health, and a Local Road Board. The Commissioners of the respective districts are the Presidents of these Local Boards.

Defence and Police Force.

The defence of the Colony was in 1888 entrusted to a Constabulary force, which was in course of formation during the years 1886, 1887, 1888, when the Imperial troops, composed of two companies of the West India regiment, were withdrawn. In 1888 the old police force was also disbanded, and their duties were assigned to the constabulary. This force now consists of an inspector commandant, an inspector, three sub-inspectors, and 170 non-commissioned officers and men, and in 1892 the total cost of the establishment amounted to $65,616.90. The principal barracks and forts are at Belize, Corozal, and Orange Walk, whilst at August Pine Ridge, 18 miles from Orange Walk, there is a Block House used as an out-post station.

Public Works.

In 1892 $54,745.31 were expended on Public Works of all kinds, of which $24,543.09 were disbursed on account of the Belize town and harbour improvements. New Court Houses and Lock-ups were erected at Allpines and Monkey River at a cost of $3,200, whilst $1,474.71 were expended on new Police Stations. The rest of the money voted for Public Works, &c. was principally spent on the maintenance of public buildings and roads, both in Belize and in the country districts.

Legislation.

Thirty-six Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and received the Governor's assent in 1892, of which the following are, perhaps, the most important :—

No. 1 of 1892.—"To provide for the establishment of a Public "Botanic Station."

No. 3 of 1892.—"To confirm the proceedings of the Legislative "Council in 1891."

In 1891, the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council tendered their resignation, and their places were filled up by the appointment of four officials, and ten Ordinances were passed by the Council so constituted. These Ordinances it was considered necessary to further legalise.

No. 7 of 1892.—"To make further provision for the prevention "of unqualified persons from acting as Pilots of Ships "exempted by law from compulsory pilotage."

No. 16 of 1892.—"To enable the Governor to issue Commis-"sions of Enquiry with special powers."

No. 18 of 1892.—"To provide for the protection of lights, "buoys, and beacons, as well as for the efficiency of the "service."

No. 25 of 1892.—"To amend the law relating to the promotion "of Education."

No. 26 of 1892.—"To institute a General Registry, and "constitute a Registrar General, and for kindred purposes."

No. 27 of 1892.—"To amend the law relating to the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths."

No 30 of 1892.—"To place the District Courts under the "supervision of the Supreme Court.'

No. 32 of 1892.—"To appropriate the money received under "Chapter 98 of 'The Consolidated Laws' for liquor licenses "to local purposes," and

No. 36 of 1892, "To amend the law relating to the imposition "of customs and excise duties."

Councils.

The Executive Council is composed of the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Inspector Commandant, and three unofficial members appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor; and the Legislative Council of the Governor, the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney General, and five unofficial members appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor. The unofficial members are therefore in a majority of one.

Civil Establishment and Pension.

There were several changes in the Civil Establishment during the year 1892, of which the following need only be noticed:—

Mr. A. J. K. Young was appointed on the 12th of February Private Secretary to Governor Sir Alfred Moloney, and Major Bayly, who had acted in that capacity from the 29th September 1891 to 11th February 1892, resumed duty as Inspector of the Constabulary.

Mr. McKinney, C.M.G., Treasurer, acted as Colonial Secretary from the 8th June, in the room of Mr. Melville, C.M.G., who was absent from the Colony on leave.

Mr. A. G. Clayton was appointed in June chief clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office.

Mr. H. C. Usher, District Commissioner of Belize, acted as Treasurer from the 15th February to the 14th May and again from the 8th June to the 3rd December.

From the 30th April to the end of the year Dr. Gahne replaced Dr. Eyles as Colonial Surgeon, the latter having been granted leave of absence.

Dr. Keyt acted as District Surgeon, Corozal, from the 29th of September to the 4th November, and from the 25th November as Inspector of Schools.

Dr. Harrison was transferred from the Cayo to Orange Walk as District Commissioner and District Surgeon in June.

Dr. Gann was appointed to the Cayo in June, and Dr. Adams in October replaced Mr. Travers, transferred to Cyprus, as District Commissioner and District Surgeon of the Toledo District.

Dr. Carpenter acted as District Surgeon at Corozal from the 5th of November.

Captain Kaye was promoted on the 31st August to be Inspector Commandant, vice Captain Kershaw, transferred to Cyprus, and Major Bayly, the senior Sub-Inspector, was promoted to be Inspector.

From the 6th February to the 30th March, Captain Luscombe, Sub-Inspector of the Constabulary, acted as District Commissioner of the Cayo.

Mr. Hoffmeister, the Attorney General, was on leave from the 27th June to the end of the year, and was replaced by Mr. S. G. Woods, Registrar of the Supreme Court, who from the 15th of February to the 23rd of March had acted as District Commissioner, Belize.

Mr. Bristowe, Clerk to the Registrar of the Supreme Court, acted as Registrar from the 27th February to the 23rd of March, as District Commissioner, Toledo, from the 24th March to the 15th October, and as District Commissioner, Belize, from the 23rd November to 3rd December.

Mr. Knollys, the Inspector of Schools, acted as Clerk of Councils from the 19th of January to the 2nd June, and on the 25th of November, proceeded to England on leave of absence.

Consuls.

The following countries are represented by Consuls:—Nicaragua, Germany, United States of America, Spanish Honduras, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Austria and Hungary, Guatemala, whilst France and Spain are represented by Consular Agents.

Population.

According to the Census of April 1891, the population was 31,471, composed of 16,268 males and 15,203 females. On the day the Census was taken it is estimated that a number of male adults were employed in wood-cutting in the Republic of Honduras and in Yucatan, who with their wives and children might fairly be put down at 1,404 all told, thus bringing up the total population of British Honduras to 32,875.

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The total white population, according to the Census, amounted to 400, and the total coloured population to 31,071. For the Belize district, the ratio of population to the square mile is 6·55, in the two northern districts of Corozal and Orange Walk 4·92, in Stann Creek district 1·87, in Toledo district 3·58, and in the Cayo district 3·33, giving a total of 4·16 per square mile for the whole Colony.

The following table gives the numbers employed in agriculture, manufacture, and commerce in the different districts:—

—	Agriculture.	Manufacture.	Commerce.
Belize District - - -	361	56	681
Corozal and Orange Walk District -	946	86	168
Stann Creek District - - -	901	9	97
Toledo District - - -	723	5	60
Cayo District - - - -	222	9	18
Totals - - - -	*3,153	165	1,024

* Of this total some 320 are children.

The total number of births in the Colony in 1892 was 1,219, or 38·73 per 1,000, and the total number of deaths was 1,282, or 40·73 per 1,000.

Miscellaneous Numerical Returns.

In the six districts of the Colony there were in all 1,567 freeholders, of whom 1,147 belonged to the district of Belize and 2,160 persons paid direct taxes, of whom 1,586 belonged to the same district. Only 27 persons were in receipt of Poor Law relief throughout the Colony, of whom 12 were inmates of the Poor House, Belize, 13 were receiving out-door relief in Belize, and 2 were being relieved at Orange Walk. The absence of poverty is one of the most striking features of the Colony, and where work is so plentiful and well paid, and labour is so scarce, no one need starve for want of work. The number of immigrants during 1892 was 120, whilst the number of emigrants was only 30. The labour question is the great difficulty at the present time, and if only a plentiful and constant supply of labourers from Barbados or some other of the West Indian Colonies could be obtained, the future permanent prosperity of British Honduras would be assured.

Ecclesiastical.

The Church of Rome, the Church of England, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian denominations are all represented in the Colony, and, though it is difficult to give an estimate of the number of adherents to these churches and denominations, their relative strength may be gauged from the following table, giving the number of churches or chapels in each district:—

—	Church of Rome.	Wesleyan.	Baptist.	Church of England.	Presbyterian.
Belize - -	5	5	7	2	1
Corozal - -	10	3	—	1	—
Orange Walk -	10	1	3	1	—
Stann Creek -	4	5	—	1	—
Toledo - -	5	2	—	—	—
Cayo - -	10	—	—	—	—
Total - -	44	16	10	5	1

No church or denomination receives any grant from the public funds of the Colony.

Education.

The system of education in the Colony is purely voluntary and primary, there being no Government or Secondary Schools. First class teachers of schools, having an average daily attendance of 20 pupils or upwards, are paid monthly, subject to certain conditions specified in the regulations, 50 cents per head for adults and 25 cents per head for infants, whilst second class teachers receive 25 cents per head for each pupil. First and second class teachers of schools situated outside Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and Stann Creek receive $15 per month, with to first class teachers 75 cents and to second class teachers 50 cents for every pupil above 20 on the average number of pupils attending the schools. The amount of Government grants in 1892 to teachers was $13,780.41, against $11,920.44 in 1891, and $11,558.25 in 1890, but in addition $443 were paid as bonuses to teachers the same as in 1891, whilst $125.75 were given as prizes. The Departmental expenses amounted to $2,168.78 making a total cost to the Government of $16,517.94 o an average cost to the Colony for each child educated of $4.88. The voluntary contributions received during the year are estimated at $1,772.46. There were 40 schools in existence in 1892, of

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which 14 were under the Church of Rome, 13 under the Wesleyan, and 6 under the Baptist denominations, 5 under the Church of England, and 2 were undenominational. In 1886 and 1887 the number of schools was 28, in 1888, 27, in 1889, 28, in 1890, 35, and in 1891, 34. The average enrolment of pupils in 1892 was 3,383 and the average daily attendance during the year 2,168, the percentage of attendance being 64·0.

The following table gives the average enrolment, average attendance, and percentage of attendance from 1886 to 1891:—

Year.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
1886 - - -	2,527	1,770	70·05
1887 - - -	2,612	1,794	68·65
1888 - - -	2,580	1,786	69·2
1889 - - -	2,569	1,786	69·63
1890 - - -	2,943	1,976	66·8
1891 - - -	2,994	2,013	67·24

Currency.

The standard of value in the Colony is the Guatemalan dollar, which is the legal tender for sums of any amount. The following coins are also current, the Guatemalan half, quarter, one-tenth, and one-twentieth dollar, the Chilian dollar or sol, half dollar, one-fifth dollar, one-tenth dollar, and one-twentieth dollar, the Peruvian sol, half, one-fifth, one-tenth, and one-twentieth sol, and one cent. piece of British Honduras. There is no paper money of any kind in circulation, and there is no established bank, though the majority of the large commercial houses combine banking business to a limited extent with their wholesale and retail trade.

The constant fluctuation in the value of the Guatemalan dollar exercises a prejudicial and unhealthy influence on the trade of the Colony. An endeavour is made by the Government to neutralise the effect of such fluctuations in its own business by fixing annually the rate at which the dollar is to be accepted for the year, but the rates are often fallacious and do not correspond with the actual value of the dollar. In 1888 this rate was 3*s.* 1*d.*, in 1889, 2*s.* 10*d.*, in 1890, 2*s.* 10*d.*, in 1891, 3*s.* 1*d.*, in 1892, 3*s.*, and in the current year 2*s.* 9*d.*, though the real value of the dollar is at the time of writing only 2*s.* 2*d.* The following tables, which give the direction of the trade of the Colony from 1883 to 1892, show that at the present time more than three quarters of the import and export trade of British Honduras is with countries where the currency is based on a gold standard, and yet the Colony has for its medium of exchange debased foreign coins. A strong and almost unanimous appeal has been made to the Imperial Government for a change in the currency to a gold standard, and the result of the representations made is now being anxiously awaited.

Imports.

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Total of direction given.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1883 - -	744,159	1,101	452,735	1,197,995	1,344,868
1884 - -	638,012	4,353	409,833	1,052,198	1,187,690
1885 - -	553,386	1,768	450,335	1,005,489	1,274,282
1886 - -	470,147	7,564	465,355	943,066	1,179,813
1887 - -	477,606	2,869	407,389	887,864	1,097,721
1888 - -	684,677	1,058	572,851	1,258,586	1,479,048
1889 - -	897,201	1,191	664,195	1,562,587	1,863,327
1890 - -	855,221	4,162	667,921	1,527,304	1,829,480
1891 - -	763,249	1,178	743,654	1,508,081	1,853,365
1892 - -	682,174	6,170	793,620	1,481,964	1,741,235

Exports.

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Total of direction given.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1883 - -	887,427	103	253,071	1,140,601	1,514,348
1884 - -	1,025,162	29	264,185	1,289,376	1,587,246
1885 - -	708,800	947	258,240	967,987	1,221,401
1886 - -	903,376	1,522	270,347	1,175,245	1,400,234
1887 - -	785,505	4,221	359,873	1,149,599	1,349,709
1888 - -	726,225	7,528	495,955	1,229,708	1,526,115
1889 - -	1,167,737	9,264	560,529	1,737,530	2,155,554
1890 - -	1,108,246	3,627	429,849	1,541,722	1,866,099
1891 - -	1,052,725	1,038	470,881	1,524,644	1,909,930
1892 - -	795,811	—	539,185	1,334,996	1,741,235

Trade of the Colony. Imports and Exports.

The tables noted above give the value of the trade of the Colony during the decade from 1883 to 1892, and though the imports for 1892 show a slight falling off compared with the years 1889, 1890,

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1892.

and 1891, they compare favourably with the figures obtained for the six years from 1883 to 1888. Similarly the value of the exports in 1892, though lower than that of 1889, 1890 and 1891, is higher than that of any of the six years from 1883 to 1888. The decrease in the value of imports for 1892 compared with 1891, was $96,327, and the decrease in the value of exports $168,695. The following tables include the principal articles, the importation and exportation of which show a decrease in 1892, as compared with the value of the same articles imported or exported in any one or all of the years 1889 to 1891.

Imports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	$	$	$	$
Clothing - - -	78,409	—	—	52,581
Cotton goods - -	307,338	323,735	289,819	221,547
Earthen and glassware -	21,175	14,349	29,932	9,963
Hardware and cutlery -	55,580	67,111	61,904	49,017
Hides and skins - -	1,913	1,665	—	807
Rubber - - -	5,327	4,715	6,208	385
Silks - - -	28,925	—	27,725	16,574
Wood and wickerware -	6,256	7,518	12,200	1,539
Woollen goods - -	—	—	44,665	30,687
Perfumery - -	16,548	14,243	18,059	12,691
Beef and pork - -	84,203	73,534	72,346	68,762
Beer, porter, cider, and perry - - -	29,577	28,294	23,790	22,704
Gunpowder - -	10,918	8,777	—	4,970
Oils (mineral) - -	15,647	16,620	17,163	13,232
Rice - - -	40,178	—	—	30,222
Soap - - -	—	35,562	—	26,841
Brandy - - -	—	32,297	23,009	19,276
Rum - - -	—	2,561	—	269
Gin - - -	4,817	7,965	8,290	3,660
Whisky - - -	—	—	17,204	14,392
Wines (sparkling) -	4,871	6,981	8,600	3,469
Wines (still) - -	28,801	30,615	25,542	20,227
Agricultural implements -	1,399	1,490	—	388
Cattle - - -	53,930	—	—	37,311
Books, printed - -	5,409	9,896	—	2,529
Bricks - - -	3,256	6,058	—	262
Ice - - -	3,397	—	—	1,811
Logwood - -	49,642	57,887	45,678	14,625
Vessels - - -	5,599	—	—	1,738

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1892.

Exports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	$	$	$	$
Cattle - - -	4,080	630	—	—
Horses and mules -	—	720	3,512	—
Hogs - - -	2,526	1,800	—	—
Beer, porter, cider, and perry - - -	2,233	1,908	2,467	1,198
Boots and shoes - -	4,341	—	1,081	301
Bananas - - -	—	—	236,957	212,882
Bullion and coin -	352,658	—	—	276,543
Cedar - - -	5,454	8,596	8,744	2,610
Cigars - - -	3,784	4,363	3,655	1,418
Clothing - - -	10,296	7,627	—	6,390
Cotton goods - -	80,832	47,379	40,456	24,864
Earthen and glassware -	8,399	4,198	3,222	1,982
Gunpowder - -	5,779	2,407	645	428
Guns and pistols - -	4,231	4,098	3,725	2,872
Hardware and cutlery -	10,945	7,537	7,449	5,078
Hats - - -	6,185	2,297	—	1,430
Logwood - -	807,468	811,705	764,018	616,838
Mahogany - -	—	—	418,356	389,855
Matches - - -	1,710	—	—	674
Perfumery - -	4,406	—	2,461	1,664
Plantains - -	—	16,340	17,039	12,191
Rubber - - -	18,874	23,712	15,832	7,450
Silks - - -	10,014	11,421	13,090	6,824
Brandy - - -	—	6,065	—	3,992
Rum - - -	12,332	5,866	—	3,298
Sugar ( ) - -	58,852	24,356	17,286	5,930
Tortoise shell - -	21,225	22,411	17,822	9,271
Wines (still) - -	12,073	10,271	11,076	7,143
Woollen goods - -	—	—	7,033	3,506

Note.—When the space opposite an article for any one year has been left blank it is to be understood that the value of the article imported or exported for that year is less than the value of the same article imported or exported in 1892.

The following tables include the principal articles the importation and exportation of which show an increase in 1892, as compared with the value of the same articles imported or exported in any one or all of the years 1889 to 1891.

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1892.

Imports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	$	$	$	$
Aerated waters	2,081	—	—	5,089
Boots and shoes	—	50,977	47,100	53,417
Drugs and chemicals	16,039	16,988	21,359	22,747
Guns and pistols	12,971	8,489	13,540	15,729
Clothing	—	41,176	49,928	52,581
Preserved provisions	74,571	—	97,802	107,433
Ship chandlery	8,001	3,516	5,261	9,527
Woollen goods	18,092	24,148	—	30,687
Confectionery	4,507	—	6,246	7,219
Plate and jewellery	—	5,718	9,430	14,153
Bacon and ham	18,509	—	16,454	19,549
Bread and biscuits	5,942	—	—	8,183
Candles (other than tallow)	6,563	—	—	8,854
Cheese	11,998	11,797	11,383	13,838
Cigarettes	—	—	728	1,490
Coffee	11,278	—	13,359	22,115
Flour	87,414	68,824	89,805	91,890
Lumber (dressed)	17,312	18,881	16,478	19,827
Lumber (rough)	21,662	24,275	19,785	25,442
Soap	23,889	—	24,338	26,841
Brandy	15,626	—	—	19,276
Whisky	9,902	12,904	—	14,392
Horses and mules	13,328	33,952	36,776	108,459
Turtle	2,588	1,922	3,091	5,074
Machinery	14,783	—	—	21,131
Vegetables	5,997	—	—	7,167

Exports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	$	$	$	$
Bananas	177,241	174,376	—	212,882
Iron roofing	8,502	7,761	7,889	12,432
Plate and jewellery	10,633	—	4,602	12,208
Mahogany	361,940	361,953	—	389,855
Plantains	11,002	—	—	12,191
Sundries	—	16,826	—	25,784
Woollen goods	—	1,376	—	3,506

NOTE.—When the space opposite an article for any one year has been left blank, it is to be understood that the value of the article imported or exported for that year exceeds the value of the same article imported or exported in 1892.

Shipping.

There was a slight falling off in the number of sailing vessels entered at ports in the Colony in 1892, as compared with the returns given for 1891, an increase of two in the number of sailing vessels cleared and a considerable decrease in the number of

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1892.

steamers entered and cleared. The following statement gives the number and tonnage of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for the four years from 1889 to 1892:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 - - -	353	29,509	167	139,497
1890 - - -	344	33,533	164	148,673
1891 - - -	312	36,089	191	142,515
1892 - - -	307	33,560	162	110,032

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 - - -	306	29,132	172	140,605
1890 - - -	322	30,267	168	151,594
1891 - -	310	36,475	189	139,194
1892 - - -	312	33,303	159	108,429

Of the sailing vessels entered in 1892, 114 were British, with a tonnage of 8,266, 88 were Honduranean, with a tonnage of 1,810, 42 were Norwegian, with a tonnage of 15,495, and 14 were American, with a tonnage of 1,142. Of the sailing vessels cleared in 1892, 117 were British, with a tonnage of 7,382, 87 were Honduranean, with a tonnage of 1,749, 42 were Norwegian, with a tonnage of 15,183, and 12 were American, with a tonnage of 1,012. Of the steamers entered in 1892, 107 were American, with a tonnage of 68,160, 49 were British, with a tonnage of 38,847, and 6 were Norwegian, with a tonnage of 3,025.

Of the steamers cleared in 1892, 106 were American, with a tonnage of 67,503, 47 were British, with a tonnage of 38,018, and 6 were Norwegian, with a tonnage of 2,908.

Agricultural Statistics.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,839,408 acres, of which 45,000 acres are returned as being under cultivation, and 4,155,000 as being uncultivated. The estimated acreage of mahogany and logwood works is 3,065,000 acres. All town and suburban lands belonging to the Crown have to be sold by public auction at an upset price fixed by the Governor in Council, which generally ranges from $1 an acre upwards, and cannot be sold privately, whilst leases of Crown land are also granted by the Governor in Council at rates varying from 25 cents an acre per annum, subject to such conditions as the circumstances of each application may seem to require. In order to encourage immigration and develop the resources of the Colony, the Governor in Council is empowered by law to issue free grants of rural lands to persons who may desire to settle in the Colony, in lots not exceeding 20 acres for each adult above 18 years of age, and 10 acres for each person under that age, subject to such conditions as to improvements or residence as may be imposed.

It is estimated that about 3,075,984 acres of land in the Colony have been granted, and that about 1,763,424 acres remain ungranted.

The average rate of wages for labourers engaged on plantations is $12 a month with rations, or if they are employed by the day or task, $1.25 to $1.50 without rations, whilst labourers who are engaged for cutting mahogany or logwood can earn $16 to $20 a month with rations.

The principal products of the Colony, in addition to mahogany and logwood, are sugar, bananas, rum, Indian corn, coffee, rice, and cocoanuts.

The following table gives the quantity produced from 1889 to 1892. The returns of bananas and cocoa-nuts are given for the first time in 1892 :—

—	Sugar.*	Bananas.	Rum.	Indian Corn.	Coffee.	Rice.	Cocoanuts.
	lbs.	Bunches.	Proof gallons.	Bushels.	lbs.	Bushels.	No.
1889 -	2,390,900	not given	67,966	100,451	931	1,718	not given
1890 -	2,094,536	not given	78,191	107,806	632	1,316	not given
1891 -	1,655,664	not given	52,757	105,840	87	963	not given
1892 -	1,953,762	260,000	68,146	87,640	20,000	625¼	2,860,000

* In 1889 and 1890 the heading is "sugar and concrete."

Any statement as to the average prices of articles of use or consumption would be misleading, as the prices depend upon fluctuations in the English and American markets, on the quantity of local stock in hand, and principally on the purchasing power of the local dollar, which varies from month to month and even from week to week. Roughly speaking, the purchasing ower of the Guatemalan dollar may be set down as equivalent the English florin, though in some instances the dollar can- purchase the equivalent for 2*s.* in England. For example, erage price of tea in 1892 is given as $1.50 per lb., but tea sed at that price is not equal in flavour or strength to tea England at 2*s.*

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1892.

Gaols and Prisoners.

There is only one gaol properly so called in the Colony, namely that situated in Belize, the gaols in the five country districts being merely insecure lock-ups for the confinement of persons sentenced in the District Courts to three months' imprisonment and less. The Belize gaol is an admirably managed institution, under the care of a keeper, a chief warder, two warders, and five overseers. The gaol is not on the separate system, as the prisoners are worked in gangs, but the separation at night is complete, unless, as very rarely happens, there are more than 77 prisoners, when not less than three are confined in one cell.

The prisoners engaged on extra-mural labour are principally employed on sanitary work, or on work in connexion with the improvements of the Belize town and harbour. In the gaol are excellent workshops, where the prisoners are taught tailoring, carpentering, bootmaking, and bookbinding. The total cost of the gaol, all charges included, with salaries, was $11,999.81 in 1892, whilst the amount of the prisoners' earnings for the same year was $10,088, made up of inside labour $4,967, and outside labour $5,121.

In 1892 the number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment amounted to 371, against 373 in 1891, 328 in 1890, and 345 in 1889.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during the year 1892 was 2,177, against 2,168 in 1891, 1,842 in 1890, and 1,963 in 1889, whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was, in 1892, 1,484, in 1891, 1,431, in 1890, 1,225, and in 1889, 1,334. In the Supreme Court, out of 63 informations 29 judgments for the Crown were given in 1892, as compared with 33 judgments out of 65 informations in 1891, 34 judgments out of 55 informations in 1890, and 29 judgments out of 63 informations in 1889. There are no indictments, and no Bills, as no grand jury exists. The Attorney-General merely files an information, and, when he thinks proper, enters a nolle prosequi.

Hospitals and Lunatic Asylum.

At the beginning of the year 1892 there were 16 male and 2 female patients in the Belize Hospital, and 313 males and 16 females were admitted during the year; 284 patients were discharged as cured in 1892, and there were 37 deaths. There are five wards in the Belize Hospital, having the following numb of beds assigned to them, 14, 1, 1, 8, and 9.

The principal diseases treated during the year were ma fevers, rheumatism, and disease of the respiratory system. first mentioned disease there were 112 cases, three b remittent and 109 of intermittent fever, of the second there were 36 cases, and of the third 33.

The total number of patients admitted to the Lunatic Asylum in 1892 was six, five being males and one female. The daily average number of patients under treatment was 23·08, of whom 17·06 were males and 6·02 females. There were three deaths among male patients during the year.

Hospitals have been established at Corozal and Orange Walk, in both of which men belonging to the Constabulary force as well as general patients are treated, and it is proposed to build hospitals at Punta Gorda and Stann Creek, and a small village hospital at the Cayo, when the finances will admit of the expenditure both extraordinary and current that will be entailed by their construction and maintenance.

Poor House.

At the beginning of the year 1892 there were 11 persons in the Belize Poor House, of whom 8 were males and 3 were females. Five persons were admitted during the year, 1 patient was discharged as cured, and 7 deaths occurred. The Poor House is divided into two wards, one ward of 28 feet in length, 30·4 feet in breadth, and 20 feet in height for males, and the other 22·6 feet in length, 30·4 feet in breadth, and 20 feet in height. The hospital, asylum, and Poor House are most creditable institutions, well organised and well managed, and those responsible for their direction deserve praise.

Meteorological Observations.

According to the observations taken at the station at Belize, the maximum of air temperature was in June, July, and September, and stood at 90° whilst the minimum was 60°, in January. January, November, and December were the three coolest months in the year, though the air temperature recorded was 84°, 86°, and 85° in these months respectively. The average maximum temperature for the 12 months was 87·7, and the average minimum temperature 67·1. The total rainfall for the year was 72·64, and rain fell on 119 days. The lowest rainfall was in April, when a slight shower occurred on only one day, and the greatest rainfall was in October, with a total of 17·72 inches.

Savings Bank.

The Government Savings Bank, Belize, was established in 1846, and the number of depositors on the 31st of December was 370, against 377 in 1891, 380 in 1890, and 408 in 1889. But the amount of deposits during the year increased to $20,859.30 from $17,230.07 in 1891, $19,231.72 in 1890, and $15,042.32 in 1889. The withdrawals during the year, amounting to $14,961.68, were less than the withdrawals in 1891 and 1890, though slightly greater than the withdrawals in 1889, which were $14,321.96 The total amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st of

December 1892 was $48,337.02, or nearly $6,000 more than in any of the three preceding years. The total revenue of the Savings Bank was $1,806.66, and deducting the interest, which is allowed at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, both paid and credited, amounting to $1,110.61, there remained a balance in favour of the Government of $6,965, not taking into account the cost of management. Branches of the Savings Bank have been established in the Corozal, Orange Walk, Toledo, Stann Creek, and the Cayo district, but up to the present time with a small measure of success.

Government House.

Government House, which faces the sea, from which it is distant about 20 yards, is a fair-sized building in a very bad state of repair, standing in about two acres of ground. The house, a one-storey building, with a verandah on three sides, consists of a good sized hall and dining-room, an office almost habitually infested by sand flies and mosquitos, a handsome mahogany staircase leading to two large bedrooms, and a drawing room 60 feet by 20 feet, and three or four small and inconveniently situated rooms, which were made by the back verandah being enclosed and partitioned off. It was at one time in contemplation to pull down the present Government House, which was built in 1814, and to erect a new house on Fort George, but there is no prospect of this scheme being adopted, owing to the heavy outlay and other reasons, and it is now proposed to throughly repair the existing building and outhouses at a cost of some $11,000.

Roads, &c.

There are no railways, canals, telegraphs, or telephones in the Colony, and the roads so called consist almost entirely of paths cut into the forests, and which there is considerable difficulty in keeping clear. The rivers and sea are now the principal highways of communication.

Postal Statistics.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1892 was $7,778.19, and the total cost, including $11,019.16 for salaries, wages, and all expenses of Postal Service within the Colony, and $20,000 for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, was $31,019.16, leaving a deficit of $23,240.97. The total number of letters passing through the Post Office, both received and sent, was 120,548, of post-cards 2,030, of newspapers, book packets, samples, and circulars 66,229, and of parcels 659.

(Signed) E. B. SWEET ESCOTT,
Administering the Government.

18th September 1893.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 116.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

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(For Report for 1892, *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 94.)

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August 1894.

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The following, among other, Reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
79	Malta - - - - - -	1892
80	Gambia - - - - - -	"
81	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
82	Grenada - - - - - -	"
83	Barbados - - - - - -	"
84	St. Vincent - - - - -	"
85	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
86	St. Lucia - - - - - -	"
87	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
88	Gold Coast - - - - - -	"
89	Basutoland - - - - - -	1892–93
90	Ceylon - - - - - -	1892
91	Zululand - - - - - -	"
92	Mauritius - - - - - -	"
93	Labuan - - - - - -	"
94	British Honduras - - - - -	"
95	Lagos - - - - - -	"
96	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
97	Fiji - - - - - -	"
98	Rodrigues - - - - - -	"
99	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
100	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1892–93
101	British Guiana - - - - -	"
102	Newfoundland - - - - -	1892
103	Jamaica - - - - - -	1892–93
104	Victoria - - - - - -	1892
105	Bermuda - - - - - -	1893
106	Gambia - - - - - -	"
107	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
108	St. Vincent - - - - - -	"
109	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
110	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
111	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
112	Leeward Islands - - - - -	"
113	Barbados - - - - - -	"
114	Malta - - - - - -	"
115	Zululand - - - - - -	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.

No. 116.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

British Honduras.
1893.

[For Report for 1892 *see* Colonial Report [Annual] No. 94.]

Sir A. Moloney to the Marquess of Ripon.

Government House, Belize,
July 17, 1894.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the report on the Blue Book of the Colony of British Honduras by Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, the Colonial Secretary.

2. Mr. Escott has compiled this report from the manuscript returns for the Blue Book as they passed through his hands, but I am afraid it will be some months before the Blue Book itself is ready for transmission to your Lordship, as the heavy work of the late Legislative Session has precluded the printing of the Blue Book being taken in hand until the present date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) Alfred Moloney,
Governor.

Report on the Blue Book of British Honduras for the year 1893.

Taxes, Duties, and other sources of Revenue.

No changes were made in the taxes and duties levied in 1893, as compared with those in force in 1892.

The light dues on all vessels of five tons and upwards entering from seaward are 12½ cents per registered ton, but Her Majesty's Ships of War and transport ships, ships arriving in distress and neither landing cargo for sale or consumption nor taking on board any additional cargo, and ships carrying mails under contract with the Government of this Colony are exempted from light dues.

For purposes of valuing goods on which duty had to be paid, the dollar was taken as worth 2*s.* 9*d.*, but its real value from January to May fell far below this, the Treasury rate, whilst from June to December the dollar was worth, on an average, only 2*s.* 1*d.*

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total ordinary revenue for the year was $301,922.07 excluding the sum of $110,727.26 realised by a loan of 15,000*l.* raised to reimburse extraordinary expenditure incurred in

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connexion with the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements Works and defrayed since 1890 from general revenue. The total ordinary expenditure, including the sum of $10,535.27 expended on new buildings and extensive alterations or additions to existing ones, but excluding the cost of the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements Works, which amounted to $29,183.04, was $365,519.15. The ordinary expenditure for the year exceeded, therefore, the ordinary revenue by $63,597.08, which excess was covered by repayments to general revenue from the loan of 15,000*l.*, which, at 2*s.* 9*d.* the dollar, realised $110,727.26, raised to defray the disbursements on the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements from 1890 to 1893 inclusive. These disbursements on the 31st December 1893 amounted to $115,506.78. The principal sources of revenue in which there was a falling off in 1893, as compared with 1892, were the customs receipts, internal taxation, and revenues of Government property. The falling off in customs receipts, which amounted to no less than $28,083.4 was due to a considerable decrease in imports, attributable to the uncertainty of trade, caused by the great depreciation of the local currency. The amount raised by internal taxation fell short by $11,258.24 of that raised in 1892, in consequence of the fees collected for liquor licenses no longer forming part of the general revenue, having been placed instead, by Ordinance No. 32 of 1892, to the credit of the different towns in the Colony.

The decrease in the amount realised under the heading "Revenues of Government Property" was due to lessees of Crown Lands not having paid their rents, and to fewer applications for licenses to cut timber having been received and granted.

The total sum voted for the service of the year 1893, as shown in the estimates, including $40,000 for the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements Works, was, $429,455.26, and the total expenditure $394,702.21, giving a saving of $34,753.05. Excluding the above mentioned sum of $40,000 and also the actual expenditure during the year on the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements Works, which was $28,857.88, the net saving was $23,610 94. Though the ordinary revenue for the year fell short of the ordinary expenditure by $63,597.08, the repayment to general revenue of the sums advanced on account of the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements Works admitted of a balance of $18,023.06 being carried to the credit of the Colony on the 1st January 1894.

The following table gives the ordinary revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the last four years.

—	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$ c.	$ c.
1890 - - -	332,135 87	293,510 46
1891 - - -	357,362 01	308,220 92
1892 - - -	338,659 98	333,646 72
1893 - - -	301,922 07	365,519 15

Assets and Liabilities.

On what may be termed the general account of the Colony, excluding the Savings Bank and Public Debt Accounts, the assets showed on the 31st December 1893 a balance over liabilities of $31,953.38. On the Savings Bank account, there was also at the same date a balance of $22,092.08, in favour of Assets over Liabilities, but on the Public Debt account the Liabilities exceeded the Assets by $227,175.17., the liabilities consisting solely of the three loans raised for the purpose mentioned under the heading "Public Debt"; taking the General Account, the Savings Bank Account, and the Public Debt Account, the total excess of Liabilities over Assets amounted at the end of the year to $173,129.61, or less than one-half of the Revenue collected in 1891, and little more than one-half the revenue collected in 1892.

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

The different towns in the Colony, namely, Belize, Corosal, Orange Walk, Mullins River, Stann Creek, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda, have separate local funds to which, since the passing of Ordinance No. 32 of 1892, are now credited all moneys received therein on the issue or transfer of liquor licenses, and, under Ordinance No. 6 of 1892, all moneys also received on the issue of dog licenses.

In the Cayo District, the moneys received on account of liquor licenses are similarly placed to the credit of the local fund of that district. The local fund of any town is appropriated and applied generally in the district within which such town is situated as the Legislative Council determines when the annual estimates are laid before them, but the recommendations of the Local Boards, under the Presidency of the Commissioner of each district, guide the Legislative Council in the appropriation of the Local Funds.

In Corosal, the local fund is increased by a property tax and market rents, and in Orange Walk by a property tax and Slaughter House fees, but, as markets have recently been built in Orange Walk and Stann Creek, the local funds of these towns will shortly be also augmented by market rents.

In Belize, the local revenue is derived, in addition to the receipts from liquor licenses, which in 1893 amounted to $6,935, from a property tax of 4 per cent. on annual value, a fire rate of 1 per cent. similarly assessed, licenses on horses, mules, asses, carriages, drays and drivers, rents of market stalls and Slaughter House fees and cemetery fees. In 1893, $79.25, were also realised by the sale of the water from public tanks during a prolonged period of drought.

The following table gives the actual revenue and actual expenditure of the different towns of the Colony from 1890 to 1893. The revenue does not include the balances to the credit of each town at the beginning of the year, which are detailed in the next table.

British Honduras
1893.

—	1890.		1891.		1892.		1893.	
	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Town of Belize -	*23,029 36	†23,029 36	16,175 61	‡16,003 72	22,271 53	16,670 66	22,763 84	24,954 23
Town of Corosal -	1,219 39	1,544 18	1,236 70	595 14	4,199 27	1,925 41	4,919 79	3,367 10
Town of Orange Walk	765 21	226 74	625 15	1,134 22	3,053 27	470 22	3,525 05	3,933 50
Town of Stann Creek	36 00	20 25	18 00	76 74	554 50	Nil.	864 00	821 56
Town of Mullin's River	51 00	Nil.	120 00	225 50	609 00	4 75	145 00	170 00
Town of Punta Gorda	51 00	Nil.	12 00	89 00	415 00	37 00	407 00	125 58
Town of Monkey River	36 00	Nil.	45 00	Nil.	711 00	Nil.	399 00	227 11
The Cayo District -	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	600 00	Nil.	600 00	600 00

* Including advances from General Revenue of $9,236.86.

† Including deficit on 1st January 1890 of $1,266.00.

‡ At the end of 1891, though the expenditure was less than the revenue for the year, the local fund owed to General Revenue $10,050.50 for advances received in previous years. This debt was, by a vote of the Legislative Council, struck off charge at the end of 1893.

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The following table shows the balances remaining to the credit of each town from 1890 to 1893 on the 31st December of each year.

—	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.	Amount.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
Town of Belize - -	Nil.	665 57	*6,266 44	4,076 05
Town of Corosal - -	451 80	1,093 36	3,367 22	4,919 91
Town of Orange Walk -	1,590 52	1,081 45	3,664 50	3,256 05
Town of Stann Creek -	126 75	68 01	622 51	664 95
Town of Mullins River -	189 00	83 50	687 75	662 75
Town of Punta Gorda -	78 00	Nil.	378 00	659 42
Town of Monkey River -	36 00	72 00	783 00	954 89
The Cayo District - -	Nil.	Nil.	600 00	600 00

* Vide note "‡" page 6.

Public Debt.

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 31st December 1893, amounted to 35,150*l.*, and consisted of a loan of $55,750, (the dollar being taken as the equivalent of 4*s.*) raised in 1886 for improvements on the town and harbour of Belize, on which interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum is paid, and further loans of 9,000*l.*, and 15,000*l.* raised for the same purpose in 1888 and 1893 respectively. The two latter loans bear interest at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. The Crown Agents for the Colonies held on the 31st December securities to the amount of 2,197*l.* 1*s.* 1*d.*, on account of the sinking fund of the loan of 1886, and on account of the sinking fund of the loan of 1888, securities to the amount of 1,076*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, and 11*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* in cash.

The full amount of the loan which was authorised to be raised under Ordinance No. 10 of 1891 was 20,000*l.*, but, as stated above, only 15,000*l.* were raised in 1893, the balance of the 5,000*l.* having been raised at the beginning of 1894. No investments have as yet been made on account of the Sinking Fund of this loan.

Local Boards.

The question of the introduction of the Municipal System into Belize, the capital of the Colony, has been engaging attention for some time, and, as a first step in that direction, a District

Boards Bill on a liberal basis was introduced and passed during the late session of the Legislative Council, and will shortly be brought into operation. Meanwhile, the Local Boards of Belize consist of the Central Road Board, of which the Governor is President, with extended powers over the whole Colony, the Local Board of Health, and the Quarantine Board, the latter two Boards being subject to the control of the Governor-in-Council. In each of the districts, there are a Local Board of Health, controlled by the Governor-in-Council, and a Local Road Board, under the Commissioners of Roads. The Commissioners of the respective districts are the Presidents of these Local Boards. The amalgamation of the two Local Boards in each district into one District Board, with powers over the whole district, and subject only to the control of the Governor, or of the Governor-in-Council will take place when the District Boards Ordinance, referred to above, and an exhaustive law dealing with Public Health, also recently passed, are brought into operation by proclamation.

Defence and Police Force.

The defence of the Colony, and the ordinary police work were in 1888 entrusted to a constabulary force raised during 1886, 1887, and 1888, when the Imperial Troops, consisting of two companies of the West India Regiment, were withdrawn, and the old Police Force disbanded. The constabulary at the end of the year was composed of an Inspector-Commandant, an Inspector, three Sub-Inspectors, and 170 non-commissioned officers and men. In 1893, the total cost of the force amounted to $71,986.95 out of which $58,430.38 were expended on salaries. The cost of the force in 1893 was greater by $6,370.05 than its cost in 1892. The Legislative Council have reduced the cost of the Establishment for 1894 to $64,893.94. The headquarters of the constabulary are now at Belize, where are the Newtown Barracks, the property of the Imperial Government, but handed over to the Colonial Government on the conditions that the buildings are kept in repair, and the foreshore line maintained. The principal forts are Fort Barlee, Corosal, and Fort Cairns, Orange Walk, whilst at August Pine Ridge, 18 miles from Orange Walk, there is a Block House used as an out-post station.

Public Works.

In 1893, $55,037.09 were expended on Public Works of all kinds, as against $54,745.31 similarly expended in 1892. From this sum of $55,037.09, $15,318.78 were spent on the maintenance of public buildings, and on general services connected with their up-keep, whilst $10,535.27 were devoted to what are generally termed extraordinary services, and included the cost of the construction of a landing pier at Stann Creek, and of placing in

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position an iron bridge over the river on which that town is situated, of more than usually extensive repairs to public buildings, of the completion of the Hospital at Orange Walk, of the conversion of the Old Government Printing Office, Belize, into a suitable Police Station, and of the building of a new Police Station at Guinea Grass.

Over and above this expenditure, the sum of $28,857.89 was spent, during the year, on carrying out the works in connection with the improvements of the town and harbour of Belize, which principally consisted in 1893 of reclamation work. Up to the 31st December 1893, the total sum of $144,892.66 had been spent on the above mentioned works spread over the years 1888 to 1893.

	$	c.	
1888 1889 1890	21,556	20	Expended on carrying out scheme of Baron Siccama.
1890	29,385	88	Awarded to contractor including cost of arbitration for cancellation of contract.
1891	40,062	06	Expended on carrying out scheme of Baron Siccama.
1892	25,030	63	ditto
1893	28,857	89	ditto
Total	$144,892	66	

Legislation.

Only three Ordinances were passed in 1893, and these were "The Appropriation Supply Ordinance for the year 1893," and the Supplementary Appropriation Supply Ordinances for the years 1892 and 1893.

After a period of legislative inaction in 1891, 1892 was conspicuous for great legislative activity, thirty-six Ordinances being passed during that year. Beyond the Appropriation Supply Ordinances, there was, therefore, little necessity for legislation in 1893, but the members of the Legislative Council, though only called together in regular session on the 1st December, were consulted freely on financial matters and other questions of importance.

Councils.

The Executive Council is composed of the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney-General, the Inspector-Commandant, and three unofficial members appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor; and the Legislative Council of the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney-General, and five unofficial members also appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor. The Governor is President of both Councils.

Civil Establishment.

There is little of general interest to record under the above heading, and it is only necessary to refer to a temporary change that took place in the administration of the Government. After nearly two years residence in the Colony, His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., left the Colony in April on six months leave of absence, during which period the Government was administered by Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, who had arrived in the Colony the month previous. On the return of Sir Alfred Moloney at the end of October, Mr. Escott acted as Colonial Secretary until the close of the year.

Pensions.

Three officers retired from the service in 1893, and were granted pensions aggregating $535 a year. The total amount paid by the Colony as pensions was on the 31st December $9,510.26 as compared with $9,725.33 and $9,002.71 on the same dates in the years 1892 and 1891 respectively.

Consuls.

The following countries are represented by Consuls:—Nicaragua, Germany, United States of America, Spanish Honduras, Denmark, Norway and Sweden, Austria and Hungary, and Guatemala, whilst France and Spain are represented by Consular Agents.

Population.

According to the returns furnished by the Registrar-General, the total population of the Colony on the 31st December was 31,371, or 100 less than the number established by the Census of April 1891. To this number, however, of which 16,219 are males and 15,152 females, should be added the number of male adults employed in the wood-cutting industries in the Republic of Honduras and in Yucatan, who, with their wives and children, probably approximate 1,500, thus bringing up the total population of the Colony to 32,871. The total white population is given as 400, and the total coloured population as 30,971, to which numbers should be added the 1,500 souls connected with the wood-cutting industries.

The ratio of population to the square mile is for the Belize District 6·66, for the combined districts of Corosal and Orange Walk 4·09, for the Stann Creek District, 1·88, for the Toledo District, 2·38, and for the Cayo District 3·35, giving an average of 4·15 for the whole Colony. The following table gives the numbers employed in agriculture, manufacture, and commerce in the different Districts.

—	Agriculture.	Manufacture.	Commerce.
Belize - - - -	361	56	681
Corozal and Orange Walk - -	946	86	168
Stann Creek - - - -	901	9	97
Toledo - - - -	723	5	60
Cayo - - - -	222	9	18
Total - - - -	3,153	165	1,024

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths and the rates per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last three years.

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1891 -	1,372	43·60	379	1,242	39·46
1892 -	1,219	38·73	372	1,282	40·73
1893 -	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66

Ecclesiastical.

The Church of England, the Church of Rome, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian denominations are all represented in the Colony, and the following table gives the number of churches or chapels in each district:—

—	Wesleyan.	Church of Rome.	Baptist.	Church of England.	Presbyterian.
Belize - -	5	2	6	3	1
Corozal - -	3	1	—	1	—
Orange Walk -	1	3	2	1	—
Stann Creek -	5	3	—	2	
Toledo - -	2	5	—	--	—
Cayo - -	—	1	—	—	—
Total - -	16	15	8	7	1

In addition to the Roman Catholic Churches given above there are some 34 small chapels in Indian villages scattered throughout the Colony. The Church of England mission is the oldest established in the Colony, having been founded in 1812, and has now at its head a bishop recently consecrated. Next comes the Baptist Society, whose first minister arrived in Belize in 1822; then the Wesleyan Mission, established in 1825; then the Roman Catholic Mission, started in 1851, and now numbering the largest number of adherents of any of the Missions, administered by a Vicar Apostolic who is also Bishop of Eurœa: and lastly the Free Church of Scotland, whose first minister came to the Colony in 1852. No Church or denomination receives any grant from the public funds of the Colony. To these Missions the Colony is much indebted for the active part taken by them in Educational work, as evidenced by the fact, shown under the next heading, that out of 40 primary schools in existence at the end of the year only two were undenominational.

Education.

The system of education in the Colony continues to be voluntary and primary, there being no Government schools. The schools are assisted by grants paid from the General Revenue and based upon the attendance of pupils. In addition, bonuses are given to teachers. By the new Educational Ordinance, No. 25 of 1892, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder, monthly grants, calculated upon the average attendance, vary according as the schools are situated in the towns of Belize, Corosal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Punta Gorda or outside their limits, as the pupils in attendance are classed as infants or adults, and as the teachers hold first or second class certificates. Grants are also paid in respect of each pupil who passes in the different standards. The amount of grants paid in 1893 aggregated $13,271.87 against $13,780.41 in 1892, whilst, in addition, $509.75 were paid as bonuses on examinations, and $128.38 were awarded in prizes. The Departmental Expenses amounted to $1,701.47 against $2,168.78 in 1892, making a total cost to the Government of $15,611.47 against a total cost of $16,517.94 in 1892. The average cost to the Colony for each child educated was $4.91 against $4.88 for 1892. The slight increase is due to the number of children on the roll being 204 less in 1893 than in 1892. The voluntary contributions in 1893 amounted to $5,170.36 and the school fees to $2,605.87. There were 40 schools in existence on the 31st December 1893, the same number as in 1892, of which 16 were under the management of the Church of Rome, 11 under that of the Wesleyan Mission, 11 under the Baptist Mission, five under the Church of England, and 2 were undenominational. In 1886 and 1887 the number of schools was 28, in 1888, 27, in 1889, 28, in 1890, 35, in 1891, 34, and in 1892, 40. The following

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table gives the average enrolment, the average attendance and the percentage of attendance from 1886 to 1893 inclusive :—

Year.	Average Enrolment.	Average Attendance.	Percentage of Attendance.
1886 - - -	2,527	1,770	70·05
1887 - - -	2,612	1,794	68·65
1888 - - -	2,580	1,786	69·2
1889 - - -	2,569	1,786	69·63
1890 - - -	2,943	1,976	66·8
1891 - - -	2,994	2,013	67·24
1892 - - -	3,383	2,168	64·0
1893 - - -	3,179	2,072	68·0

Of the 3,179 pupils on the roll of all the Schools, 1,313 belonged to the Roman Catholic, 933 to Wesleyan, 488 to Church of England, 337 to Baptist and 108 to undenominational schools.

In reviewing the general educational work of the past year, the difficulties arising from many of the children having but a slight acquaintance with the English language must not be overlooked. Thus from Red Cliff, nearly at the extreme south of the Colony, to Stann Creek, the Carib language is most commonly used and the children, save in school, hear little Engish spoken. The so called Creole element is mostly found in the schools from Little River to Northern River, as well as in the Belize District and westward, whilst in the northern part of the Colony and the extreme west the languages in every day use are Spanish and Maya, the latter an Indian dialect. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at if primary education, with these linguistic drawbacks, should not be very advanced, though, having regard to this consideration, the results may be viewed as satisfactory. The children who attend school are on the whole bright and intelligent, and, if teachers were to judiciously make greater use of the native language of the children as the medium of instruction in teaching English, progress would be probably more rapid. In addition, however, to the difficulty arising from the multiplicity of languages, the want of proper roads, rendering communication between villages no easy matter, and the scattered nature of the population, must be remembered, whilst, in addition, many children are deprived for a large portion of the year of any opportunity of attending school owing to their having to accompany their parents who are employed in the bush in cutting logwood and mahogany. To the employers of those labourers who are engaged in the wood-cutting industries, the Government must necessarily look for the establishment of temporary schools in the immediate neighbourhood of the logwood and mahogany works, and such schools, when once established would be able to participate in the grants annually voted by the Legislature.

In closing these remarks on the Educational system of the Colony, a reference should be made to the Second Annual Exhibition of School Work which was held in December last. This exhibition, which owes its origin entirely to His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, hasnow, thanks to his efforts, become an annual institution and is an important feature in the work of education. So far, the exhibits have been principally confined to specimens of needlework of all kinds, penmanship, and drawing, but it is hoped that in time the exhibits will include specimens of the various crafts and trades of the Colony, and will form a happy illustration of the successful development of industrial training which it is the anxious desire of the Government to foster and promote.

Currency.

The standard of value is still the Guatemalan dollar, which is the legal tender for sums of any amount. The following coins are also current, the Guatemalan half, quarter, one-tenth, and one-twentieth dollar, the Chilian dollar or sol, half-dollar, and one-fifth dollar, one-tenth dollar, and one-twentieth dollar, the Peruvian sol, half, one-fifth, one-tenth, and one-twentieth sol, and one-cent piece of British Honduras. It is somewhat of an anomaly that the one coin peculiar to the Colony is the one that has in itself no purchasing power, for there is not a single article that can be bought for a single cent piece. Throughout the year 1893 there was a marked depression of trade, owing in no small measure to the unhealthy condition of the local currency. The Treasury rate fixed for the dollar for the year was 2*s.* 9*d.*, but the exchange or commercial rate at no time reached that figure, and from June to December the average value of the dollar was only 2*s.* 1*d.*

From 1888 to 1894 the Treasury rating of the dollar, for purpose of account, has been as follows:—

	s.	*d.*
1888 - - -	3	1
1889 - - -	2	10
1890 - - -	2	10
1891 - - -	3	1
1892 - - -	3	0
1893 - - -	2	9
1894 - - -	2	5

There is no paper money of any kind now in circulation, and there is no banking establishment, but the majority of the large

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commercial houses combine banking business to a limited extent with their wholesale and retail trade.

It is hoped that, as soon as the standard of the value has been changed from a silver to a gold basis a legitimate bank will be established.

The strong and practically unanimous appeal for a change in the currency to a gold standard which was made to the Imperial Government has been favourably answered, and the Local Government now only awaits the instructions of the Home authorities as to the final arrangements to be made for the conversion of the currency, it having already been decided, in accordance with the popular wish, that the standard shall be the American gold dollar, though the English sovereign will have also concurrent circulation. Though the existing depression in trade is not wholly attributable to the depreciated currency in which payments are made, it is clear that no branch of trade can be in a healthy condition when so much uncertainty exists as to the value of the medium of exchange, and a natural contraction of business operations must therefore ensue.

Trade of the Colony. Imports and Exports.

The following tables give the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony during the decade from 1884 to 1893, from which it will be seen that, whilst the value of the Imports in 1893 was lower than that in any other year since 1887, the value of the Exports exceeded that of any of the nine years previous except 1889. The decrease in the value of Imports for 1893 compared with 1892 was $280,294, whilst the increase in the value of Exports was $393,882. The decrease in the value of Imports was due to the very natural shrinkage of trade owing to the depreciated state of the local currency, and the disinclination on the part of the merchants to import articles at enhanced prices until the then existing stock-in-trade had been reduced.

Imports.

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1884 - -	638,012	4,353	409,833	135,492	1,187,690
1885 - -	553,386	1,768	450,335	268,793	1,274,282
1886 - -	470,147	7,564	465,355	236,747	1,179,813
1887 - -	477,606	2,869	407,389	209,857	1,097,721
1888 - -	684,677	1,058	572,851	220,462	1,479,048
1889 - -	897,201	1,191	664,195	300,740	1,863,327
1890 - -	855,221	4,162	667,921	302,176	1,829,480
1891 - -	763,249	1,178	743,654	345,284	1,853,365
1892 - -	682,174	6,170	793,620	259,271	1,741,235
1893 - -	559,686	3,932	684,134	213,189	1,460 941

Exports.

Years.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1884 - -	1,025,162	29	264,185	297,870	1,587,246
1885 - -	708,800	947	258,240	244,414	1,221,401
1886 - -	903,376	1,522	270,347	224,989	1,400,234
1887 - -	785,505	4,221	359,873	200,110	1,349,709
1888 - -	726,225	7,528	495,955	296,407	1,526,115
1889 - -	1,167,737	9,264	560,529	418,024	2,155,554
1890 - -	1,108,246	3,627	429,849	324,377	1,866,099
1891 - -	1,052,725	1,038	470,881	385,286	1,909,930
1892 - -	795,811	—	539,185	406,239	1,741,235
1893 - -	1,186,228	—	588,438	360,451	2,135,117

The following tables include the principal articles the importation and exportation of which show a decrease in 1893, as compared with the value of the same articles imported or exported in any one or all of the years 1889 to 1892:—

Imports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	$	$	$	$	$
Agricultural implements -	1,399	1,490	189	388	383
Bacon and ham - - - -	18,509	19,063	16,454	19,549	45,310
Beer, porter, cider, and perry -	29,577	28,294	23,790	22,704	22,057
Books, printed - -	5,409	9,896	3,405	2,529	4,033
Brandy - - - -	15,626	32,297	23,009	19,276	7,527
Bread and biscuits - -	5,942	7,596	7,381	8,183	7,354
Bricks - - - -	3,256	6,058	377	262	2,600
Candles, other than tallow -	6,563	8,608	5,332	8,854	6,665
Cattle (including horses and mules) - - -	67,258	69,899	59,332	145,770	62,811
Coffee - - - -	11,278	24,666	13,359	22,115	19,933
Confectionery - - -	4,507	7636	6,246	7,219	4,947
Cotton goods - - -	307,338	323,735	289,819	221,547	117,352
Cigars - - - -	11,356	9,967	14,452	10 826	11,444
Clothing - - - -	78,409	41,176	49,928	52,581	49,816
Drugs and chemicals - -	16,039	16,988	21,359	22,747	17,603
Earthen and glass ware - -	21,175	14,349	29,932	9,963	15,377
Flour - - - -	87,414	68,824	89,805	91,890	88,418
Gin - - - -	4,817	7,965	8,290	3,660	4,060

British Honduras.
1893.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	$	$	$	$	$
Gunpowder	10,918	8,777	7,917	4,970	334
Guns and pistols	12,971	8,489	13,540	15,229	7,380
Hardware and cutlery	55,580	67,111	61,904	49,017	43,741
Hides and skins	1,913	1,665	1,043	807	545
Ice	3,397	1,624	2,234	1,811	3,199
Logwood	49,642	57,887	45,678	14,625	16,781
Lumber (dressed)	17,312	18,881	16,478	19,827	17,338
Lumber (rough)	21,662	24,275	19,785	25,442	18,769
Machinery	14,783	18,203	27,645	21,131	5,104
Perfumery	16,548	14,243	18,059	12,691	8,931
Plate and jewellery	15,170	5,718	9,430	14,153	8,479
Rice	40,178	20,624	29,168	30,222	36,525
Rubber	5,327	4, 715	6 ,208	385	1,745
Rum	80	2,561	545	269	74
Ship chandlery	8,001	3.516	5,261	9,527	2,586
Silks	28,925	13,404	27,725	16,574	14,645
Soap	23,889	35,562	24,338	26,841	25,195
Turtle	2,588	1,992	3,091	5,014	4,828
Vessels	5,599	1,024	302	1,738	15
Whiskey	9,902	12,904	17,204	14,392	10,224
Wood and wickerware	6,256	7,518	12,200	1,539	2,680
Woollen goods	18,092	24,148	44,665	30,687	18,236
Wines (sparkling)	4,871	6,981	8,600	3,469	3,895
Wines (still)	28,801	30,615	25,542	20,227	16,426

Exports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	$	$	$	$	$
Bananas	177,241	174,376	236,957	212,882	89,420
Beer, porter, cider and perry	2.233	1,908	2,467	1,193	803
Boots and shoes	4,341	not given	1,081	301	702
Cattle (including horses and mules)	4,080	1,350	3,512	Nil	Nil
Cedar	5,454	8,596	8,744	2 610	5,939
Clothing	10,296	7,627	3,344	6,390	2,251
Cotton goods	80,832	47,379	40,450	24,864	3,057
Earthen and glass ware	8,399	4,198	3,222	1,982	25
Gunpowder	5,779	2,407	645	428	437
Guns and pistols	4,231	4,098	3,725	2,872	1,005
Hardware and cutlery	10,945	7,537	7,449	5,078	2,607

**British Honduras.
1893.**

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	$	$	$	$	$
Hats - - - - -	6,135	1,[illegible]24	2,297	1,430	729
Iron roofing - - -	8,502	7,761	7,889	12,432	5,030
Matches - - - - -	1,710	1,160	402	674	302
Perfumery - - -	4,406	2,602	2,461	1,664	1,080
Plantains - - - -	11,002	16,340	17,039	12,191	5,574
Plate and jewellery - -	10,633	1,218	4,602	12,208	2,060
Rubber - - - - -	18,874	23,712	15,832	7,450	3,782
Rum - - - - -	12,332	5,866	4,256	3,298	8,322
Silks - - - - -	10,014	11,421	13,090	6,824	3,209
Sugar (raw) - - -	58,852	24,356	17,286	5,930	7,836
Sundries - - - -	32,299	16,826	24,430	25,784	8,310
Wines (still) - - -	12,073	10,271	11,076	7,143	7,229
Woollen goods - - -	3,251	1,376	7,033	3,506	796

The following tables include the principal articles the importation and exportation of which show an increase in 1893, as compared with the value of the same articles imported or exported in any one or all of the years 1889 to 1893:—

Imports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
	$	$	$	$	$
Aerated waters - - -	2,081	2,158	6,572	5,089	6,587
Beef and pork - - -	84,203	73,534	72,346	68,762	113,167
Boots and shoes - - -	54,583	50,977	47,100	53,417	58,583
Cheese - - - -	11,998	11,797	11,383	13,838	13,970
Cigarettes - - - -	not given	not given	728	1,490	2,300
Oils (mineral) - - -	15,647	16,620	17,163	13,232	17,218
Preserved provisions - -	74,571	107,971	97,802	107,433	113,550

Exports.

Articles.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.
Bullion and coin - -	352,658	198,488	160,480	276,543	451,485
Logwood - - - -	807,468	811,705	764,018	616,838	905,191
Mahogany - - -	361,940	361,953	418,356	389,855	530,661
Tortoise shell - - -	21,225	22,411	17,822	9,271	22,770

In the following table is given a summary of the total value of the imports and exports of the Colony in 1893 according to the classification recommended to be adopted by a committee which was appointed in England under authority to examine the method of preparing import and export statistics in force in the various colonies:—

Nos.	Classes.	Imports.	Exports.		
			Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
		$	$	$	$
1.	Live animals Food Drink and Narcotics	688,903	132,861	29,158	162,01
2.	Raw materials:				
	1. Textile	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	2. Metal	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	3. Other	36,888	1,341,202	136,571	1,477,773
3.	Manufactured materials:				
	1. Textile	200.371	Nil	10,564	10,564
	2. Metal	107,933	Nil	13,358	13,358
	3. Other	347,285	Nil	18,124	18,184
4.	Coin, bullion and specie of all kinds	79,200	Nil	453,279	453,279
	Grand total	1,460,941	1,474,063	661,054	2,135,117

Shipping.

There was a considerable increase in the number of sailing vessels entered and cleared at ports in the Colony in 1893, as compared with the returns for 1892, and, though there was a decrease in the number of steamers entered and cleared, the total tonnage of the steamers entered and cleared in 1893 was only 289 tons less than the tonnage of the steamers entered and cleared in 1892.

The following tables give the number and tonnage of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared for the five years from 1889 to 1893:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889	353	29,509	167	139,497
1890	344	33,533	164	148,673
1891	312	36,089	191	142,515
1892	307	33,560	162	110,032
1893	379	30,935	144	107,941

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 - - -	306	29,132	172	140,605
1890 - - -	322	30,267	168	151,594
1891 - - -	310	36,475	189	139,194
1892 - - -	312	33,303	159	108,429
1893 - - -	360	34,198	146	110,231

The nationalities and aggregate annual tonnage of the different sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared at ports in the Colony from 1889 to 1893 are given in the four following tables:—

Sailing Vessels entered.

Year.	British.		Danish.		German.		Guatemala.		Honduranean.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 -	195	12,946	2	586	3	834	1	6	26	407
1890 -	159	9,912	2	717	6	2,323	—	—	46	927
1891 -	127	9,001	2	450	5	1,868	—	—	63	1,235
1892 -	114	8,266	2	708	6	2,159	—	—	88	1,810
1893 -	177	8,817	2	266	5	1,978	6	37	93	1,800

(continued.)

Year.	Mexican.		Nicaraguan.		Swedish.		American.		Norwegian.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 -	77	1,765	5	90	9	3,281	11	1,074	23	8,116
1890 -	69	2,071	7	206	7	2,431	7	351	41	14,595
1891 -	44	1,379	7	159	8	2,786	4	126	50	18,672
1892 -	26	813	7	161	6	2,272	14	1,142	42	15,495
1893 -	26	811	8	184	2	736	19	988	42	15,318

NOTE.—One Russian sailing vessel of 404 tons was entered in 1889.

Sailing Vessels cleared.

Years.	British.		Danish.		German.		Guatemalan.		Honduranean.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 -	178	13,415	2	586	6	1,971	—	—	26	518
1890 -	143	9,025	2	699	5	1,915	—	—	49	965
1891 -	121	8,976	4	1,106	3	1,104	—	—	70	1,394
1892 -	117	7,382	1	354	8	2,934	1	7	87	1,749
1893 -	163	9,543	2	620	5	1,947	2	10	90	1,706

(Continued.)

Year.	Mexican.		Nicaraguan.		Swedish.		American.		Norwegian.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 -	48	1,338	6	114	8	2,969	11	1,044	20	6,773
1890 -	65	2,028	10	239	7	2,370	6	840	35	12,686
1891 -	37	1,288	7	159	6	2,006	6	148	54	20,163
1892 -	27	843	7	161	8	2,944	12	1,012	42	15,183
1893 -	24	786	8	183	5	1,822	16	921	45	16,660

Note.—One Russian sailing vessel of 404 tons was cleared in 1889.

Steamers entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 -	65	60,439	102	79,058	—	—
1890 -	86	83,246	78	65,427	—	—
1891 -	65	52,883	118	85,243	6	3,431
1892 -	49	38,847	107	68,160	6	3,025
1893 -	35	40,875	99	62,241	10	4,825

Steamers cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	Vessels.	Ton.	Vessels.	Tons.	Vessels.	Tons.
1889 -	68	60,488	104	80,117	—	—
1890 -	90	85,689	78	65,905	—	—
1891 -	68	53,094	111	80,470	8	4,672
1892 -	47	38,018	106	67,503	6	2,908
1893 -	37	43,174	101	63,063	8	3,994

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1893.

Agricultural Statistics.

The estimated acreage of the Colony is 4,839,408 acres, in which are included the area covered by lagoons and rivers, amounting to 103,009 acres, and also that covered by the numerous cays, which is given as 112,529 acres.

Fifty-one thousand acres are returned as being under cultivation, and 4,572,872 as being uncultivated. The figures given as the uncultivated acreage do not include the area covered by lagoons, rivers and cays. The estimated acreage of mahogany and logwood works remains the same as in 1892, namely, 3,065,000, but these figures are only approximate. All town and suburban lands belonging to the Crown must be sold by public auction at an upset price fixed by the Governor-in-Council, which generally ranges from $1 an acre upwards, whilst leases of Crown land are also granted by the Governor-in-Council at rates varying from 25 cents an acre per annum, subject to such conditions as the circumstances of each case may seem to require. Rural land belonging to the Crown can now also be bought for agricultural purposes at $1 an acre, and every encouragement is liberally extended by the Government to agriculturists, on whose enterprise and energy the future of the Colony will have to depend. Free grants of rural lands are also given to *bonâ fide* immigrants who desire to settle in the Colony, in lots not exceeding 20 acres for each adult above 18 years of age, and 10 acres for each person under that age, subject only to easy conditions as to improvements and residence. About 3,077,146 acres of land in the Colony have been granted, and about 1,762,262 remain ungranted. The total number of acres granted in 1893 was 1,161¾, for which the average price of $2.00 an acre was received.

The following table gives the acreage of the six districts of the Colony, and of the alienated and unalienated lands in each district.

District.	Area.	Alienated.	Unalienated.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Belize - - -	1,102,000	928,291	173,709
Corosal - - -	446,208	409,313	36,895
Orange Walk -	916,800	876,900	39,900
Stann Creek - -	1,280,000	157,203	1,122,797
Toledo - - -	576,000	233,076	342,924
The Cayo - - -	518,400	467,880	50,520

In the following table is given the revenue derived by the Land Department from the sale or leases of lands, and the issue of licenses to cut timber.

Year.	Sale of Land.	Leases of Land.	Timber Licenses.
	$ c.	$ c.	$ c.
1890 - - -	1,080 25	4,276 99	9,100 71
1891 - - -	3,569 50	4,815 96	8,807 58
1892 - - -	1,519 50	4,392 67	3,985 41
1893 - - -	2,856 07	3,065 28	1,842 50

The marked falling off in the revenue derived in 1893 from timber licenses was due to the low price of mahogany throughout the year, and the consequent diminution in the number of applicants to cut mahogany on Crown Lands. Whilst there was an increase in the receipts from the sales of lands, there was a decrease in the receipts from the leases of lands, due to the loss which lessees of Crown Lands in the Southern District suffered by their plantations being either destroyed or seriously damaged by the heavy gale of the 6th July. At the present time, the increased facilities that now exist for the export and disposal of agricultural produce in consequence of a new steamship company having been recently locally organised by the principal capitalists of the Colony in the agricultural interests, has given a much needed impetus to agriculture, and numerous applications are now being made by persons in the Southern Districts of Toledo and Stann Creek for the purchase or lease of Crown Lands. As a further indication of the benefit that this new steamship company has been to agriculturists, the following comparative statement of bananas, cocoanuts, plantains, avocado-pears, and pine-apples exported during the first half-year of the years 1892, 1893 and 1894 is instructive

January to June.	Bananas.	Cocoanuts.	Plantains.	Avocado pears.	Pine-apples.
	Bunches.				
1892 -	238,389	618,340	796,400	—	600
1893 -	135,040	529,805	323,900	800	660
1894 -	180,356	603,175	821,600	4,250	4,521

The average rate of wages for labour was lower in 1893 than in 1892. Labourers engaged on plantations received on an average $10 a month with rations, or $1 a day without rations, as against, in 1892, $12 a month with rations or $1.25 to $1.50 a day without rations. Labourers employed in cutting mahogany or logwood received in 1892, on an average, nearly $19 a month with rations, but in 1893 they received, on an average, not more than $18 a month with rations. For domestic labour the average rate of wages in 1893 was for males $10 a month, and for females $6, but these wages were almost invariably exclusive of their food, which must be borne in mind in considering the cost of servants.

The principal products of the Colony, in addition to mahogany and logwood, are sugar, rum, Indian-corn, bananas, cocoanuts and plantains, and the following table gives in the case of sugar, rum, and Indian corn, according to the returns supplied, the quantity produced from 1889 to 1893, and in the case of bananas, cocoanuts, and plantains, the quantity exported for the same period. The returns for sugar, rum and Indian-corn cannot, however, be considered as strictly accurate, and probably are very much below the actual quantity produced.

Year.	Sugar.	Rum.	Indian Corn.	Bananas.	Cocoanuts.	Plantains.
	lbs.	Proof gallons.	Bushels.	Bunches.	Number of Nuts exported.	
1889 -	2,390,900	67,966	100,451	356,285	1,859,313	1,085,280
1890 -	2,094,536	78,191	107,806	356,346	1,332,289	1.200,450
1891 -	1,655,664	52,757	105,840	472,436	1,964,175	1,580,200
1892 -	1,953,762	68,146	87,640	425,765	1,894,137	1,219,050
1893 -	1,490,920	57,178	47,607	189,420	1,177,315	506,400

Under bananas, cocoanuts, and plantains, as has been stated above, only the quantity exported has been given, as no reliable figures could be obtained as to the quantity grown. In endeavouring, therefore, to arrive at an approximate estimate of the bunches of bananas and the number of cocoanuts and plantains annually produced in the Colony, a reasonable allowance must be made for home consumption by a population of nearly 33,000 souls. A very considerable decrease in the quantity of bananas, cocoanuts, and plantains exported in 1893 will be noticed as compared with the four previous years, but this decrease is almost entirely attributable to the disastrous effects of the gale of the 6th of July, which wrecked or very seriously damaged nearly all the plantations in the Southern Districts of Stann Creek and Toledo. Considering the geographical position of British Honduras, the fertility of its soil, and the general salubrity of its climate, it is surprising that the number of its agricultural products as articles of commerce is not greater than it is. By the establishment, through the efforts of his Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., in 1892, of a Botanic Station in Belize attached to the grounds of Government House, an attempt has been made to create a nursery for the cultivation of plants, of all kinds, of economic value. But the condition of the soil in Belize and the proximity of the station to the sea have proved the present site to be not altogether suited for its purpose, and it is hoped to shortly transfer the Botanic

BRITISH HONDURAS.
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Station to the Stann Creek District, where a site of some 75 acres, admirably adapted for its purpose, has been generously placed at the disposal of the Government by the Board of Directors of the British Honduras Syndicate. Even at Belize the Botanic Station has proved of value for, from the experiments made there, and from experience gained of the resources and capabilities of the Colony, it seems clear that the following products, in addition to those which have already proved successful, can be grown with advantage and with profit to agriculturists: cacao, castor-oil plant, coffee (liberica for the lowlands, arabica for the highlands), rubber, (*castilloa elastica*), cola acuminata, cotton, grape-fruit, ground nut, henequen, jute, lemon, lime, nutmeg, pine-apple, pimento, sapodilla, shaddock, tobacco, and vanilla. In addition to the above, the following kitchen-garden products, as they are generally termed, can be readily cultivated:—Artichoke (Jerusalem), asparagus, beans of various kinds, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumber, edible gourds, Indian kale, lettuce, melon, mint, ochro, parsley, potato (Irish and sweet), peas, spinnach, and tomatoes.

Bearing in view the short-sighted policy of depending on logwood and mahogany as the staples for the Colony's trade, it is to be hoped that the oft-repeated exhortation of His Excellency the Governor that the future of British Honduras must depend on its agricultural development will be borne in mind, and that in time this Colony will become, what it is eminently fitted by its climate and fertility to be, the garden of Central America.

It has been considered desirable in this report to refrain from giving any statement of the average prices of articles imported for use or consumption, as their prices depend on the fluctuations in the English and American markets, and on the varying value of the local medium of exchange. From January to May, at the commercial rate of exchange, the Guatemalan dollar was worth on an average 2*s*. 5*d*., and from June to December 2*s*. 1*d*. Prices of imported goods, therefore, varied accordingly, though there was, on the whole, little variation in the prices of articles grown or produced in the Colony.

The following comparative statement of the cost during the years 1891, 1892, and 1893 of those articles which, for the most part, are grown or produced in the Colony, and constitute especially the food of the people, may be useful:—

—	1893.	1892.	1891.
Wheaten family flour per lb.	06¼ c. to 09 c.	04 c. to 06¼ c.	04 c. to 06¼ c.
Wheaten bread { per 12 oz. loaf }	06¼ c.	per lb loaf 06¼ c.	per lb loaf 06¼ c.
Tea - - per lb.	75 c. to $2	62½ c. to $1.50 c.	75 c. to $1.75 c.
Coffee - - „	50 c. to 62½ c.	37½ c. to 50 c.	31¼ c. to 37½ c.

—		1893.	1892.	1891.
Butter -	- per lb.	75 c. to $1.25 c.	62½ c. to 75 c.	50 c. to 75 c.
Beef (fresh)	- „	18¾ c.	12½ c. to 15½ c.	15½ c. to 18¾ c.
Pork (fresh)	- „	25 c.	12½ c. to 18¾ c.	18¾ c.
Mutton -	- „	37½ c.	31¼ c.	31¼ c.
Turtle -	- „	15½ c.	12½ c.	12½ c.
Fish (fresh)	- „	03 c. to 06¼ c.	03 c. to 06¼ c.	03 c. to 06¼ c.
Plantains -	- per 100	$1.25 to $1.50	$1.25	$1.00
Rice - -	- per qt.	12½ c. to 15½ c.	12½ c.	12½ c.
Yam -	- per lb.	04 c. to 05 c.	03 c. to 04 c.	03 c.
Sugar (raw)	- „	12½ c. to 15½ c.	04 c. to 08 c.	06¼ c. to 09 c.
Milk (fresh)	- per qt.	31¼ c.	25 c.	25 c.
Tobacco -	- per lb.	50 c. to 62½ c.	25 c. to 50 c.	31¼ c.
Bananas -	per bunch.	12½ c. to 25 c.	6¼ c. to 18¾ c.	06¼ c. to 18¾ c.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

Eleven steam and 36 cattle sugar mills and 17 stills were, on the 31st December, in use in the different parts of the Colony, whilst in the Stann Creek District there were three saw mills at work. The Colony, instead of importing timber for building purposes, should be able to supply all that is required in that direction, and it is hoped that a further development of the industry will shortly take place.

The question of granting mining leases on favourable terms has lately received the attention of the Colonial Government, and is now under the consideration of the Secretary of State. The indications of minerals, and especially coal, that have appeared in the vicinity of the Cockscomb Mountains are most encouraging, whilst from the coast line to those mountains, the highest peak of which, Victoria Peak, is 3,700 feet above the sea-level, are traced alluvium, prime ridge gravel, calcareous shale and flagstone, clay shale and sandstone (coal measure), coast-range limestone (crystalline), coast-range schist and gneiss, black-shale and crinoidal limestone, second range grit and slate, granite, serpentine, felsite and quartz, porphyry and quartzite.

There is no established fishery in the Colony, but a bountiful supply of various kinds of fish, especially within what may be termed the Belize District, are caught from boats and doreys for local consumption. In 1893, 314 turtles were shipped to England by steamers. There are no manufactures save those for sugar and rum, but a fair quantity of cigars and mocassins are annually made, and there is no reason why the cigar industry should not be considerably developed. There are extensive sponge beds along the coast and round the numerous cays or small islands, the varieties ranging from yellow or "Grass" to "Sheep's Wool." Specimens of these sponges have attracted much attention, and proposals made by a well-known English firm for developing this industry have received the support of the Colonial, and the approval of the Home, Governments. Should no hitch occur, it is hoped that before long sponges will form an important item in the export trade of the Colony.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The only real gaol in the Colony is that situated in Belize, as the gaols in the five other districts would be more correctly termed lock-ups, in which persons sentenced in the district courts to three months' imprisonment and less are confined. ·At Corosal and Orange Walk, these gaols are managed by officers called keepers of prisons, under the direction of the Commissioner of the district, and the prisoners are employed for the most part on services in connexion with the scavenging and cleaning of the towns. At Stann Creek, Punta Gorda, and the Cayo, the prisoners are all under the charge of a non-commissioned officer of constabulary, who takes his orders from the Commissioner. The Belize gaol is a well-organised institution, and reflects credit on the keeper, who is assisted in his duties by a chief warder, two warders, and five overseers. The gaol is not on the separate system, as the prisoners are worked in gangs, but the separation at night is complete, unless, as very rarely happens, there are more than 77 prisoners, when not less than three are confined in one cell. The prisoners engaged on extra-mural labour are principally employed on sanitary work, or on work in connexion with the improvements of the town and harbour. There are excellent workshops in the gaol, and the prisoners are taught various trades as tailors, carpenters, bootmakers, bookbinders, mat-makers, and tin-smiths. Brushes of different kinds, for domestic purposes as well as for cleaning houses, are also made.

The total cost of the Belize Gaol, all charges included, with salaries, in 1893 was $12,997.44, as compared with $11,999.81 in 1892, $10,680.16 in 1891, and $10,958.19 in 1890. The increased cost in 1893 and 1892, compared with the years 1891 and 1890, was due to the higher price of provisions in consequence of the depreciated value of the local currency.

The estimated value of the prisoners' labour in 1893 was $11,247.80 made up of inside labour $6,854.30 and outside labour $4,393.50, but, inasmuch as the value placed on the prisoners' labour was little, if at all, less than that of free labour, some deduction should be made from the estimated value given above. In 1892, the estimated value of the prisoners' labour was $10,088, in 1891 $13,569.75, and in 1890 $11,856.43.

The following table gives the number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment from 1889 to 1893, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Gaol for the same years:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average number in Belize Gaol.
1889 - - -	345	58·68
1890 - - -	328	51·01
1891 - - -	373	49·59
1892 - - -	371	45·70
1893 - - -	395	48·76

Hospitals, Lunatic Asylum, and Poor House.

The Medical Institutions of the Colony are as follows:—

The Public Hospital, Belize.
The Lunatic Asylum, Belize.
The Poor House, Belize.
The Contagious Diseases Hospital, Belize.
The Public Hospital, Corosal.
The Public Hospital, Orange Walk.
The Infectious Diseases Hospital, Orange Walk.

The Belize Hospital consists of five wards, having the following number of beds assigned to them, 11, 1, 1, 8, and 5. At the beginning of the year 1893, there were 25 male and 1 female patients in the Hospital, and 289 males and 15 females were admitted during the year; 258 patients were discharged as cured, and there were 32 deaths. The average daily number of patients in hospital, both male and female, was 18·24 as compared with 20·90 in 1892, 19·68 in 1891, 20·11 in 1890, and 19·76 in 1889. Out of a total number of 330 cases treated, 103 were cases of malarial fever, three being remittent and 100 intermittent, 30 were of rheumatism, 23 were diseases of circulatory or respiratory system, 21 were diseases of the skin, and 16 were cases of dysentery.

Eight patients were admitted to the Lunatic Asylum in 1893, five being males and three females, whilst three males and one female were discharged as cured during the year. The daily average number of patients during the year, including males and females, was 26·7 as against 23·08 in 1892, 23·30 in 1891, 24·56 in 1890 and 25·10 in 1889. There were no deaths in 1893.

In the Poor House, there were five males and three females at the beginning of the year, and during the year nine males and seven females were admitted, and one male and one female were discharged. There were seven deaths in all. The daily average number of inmates of the Poor House was 10·8 as compared with 9·10 in 1892, when the present building was constructed for the reception of such persons as would properly be received into this Institution. The same excellent organisation and good management which have been noticeable in connection with these institutions still prevail, and the equipment of the Hospital especially leaves little to be desired. The Legislature have made for two years now provision for the salary of a trained nurse to be obtained from England. A suitable person for the appointment, and competent as regards the duties of nursing and midwifery has only just been found. The lady appointed as nurse arrived at the beginning of the present month. The absence of a trained female nurse has been much felt even in Belize, whilst in the other towns of the Colony there is undoubtedly much loss of life in cases of serious illness owing to the want of proper nurses. It is now hoped that, under the instructions of a thoroughly trained nurse, the native women will be able to be also trained as nurses for service in any part of the Colony.

The Contagious Diseases Hospital, formerly the Old Military Hospital, occupies a capital site at the extreme north of the land included in what is called the Newtown Barracks, is bounded on two sides by the sea, and is sufficiently isolated for all practical purposes. So far it has, fortunately, not been put into requisition, but it would be ready for use at a few hours notice.

The Corosal Public Hospital was first opened in 1883, and at that time had accommodation for six male and two female patients, In 1892 and at the beginning of 1893 it was enlarged and can now comfortably accommodate ten male, as well as two female, patients. During the year 187 males and 8 females were admitted, 130 patients in all were discharged as cured, and 41 as relieved.

The number of deaths was 16. The daily average in hospital, both of males and females, was 8·56. As the number of admissions to this Hospital in 1890 was only 61, the daily average being 3·04, it will be seen that the benefits derivable from that Institution are becoming more widely appreciated; of the 198 cases treated, 53 were for remittent, and 3 for intermittent, fever.

The Hospital at Orange Walk was opened by His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., on the 14th February 1893, but it was not ready for the reception of patients until the 17th of March following. Since that date up to the close of the year 140 male patients were admitted, of whom 109 were discharged as cured, and 16 as relieved, whilst five died. The daily average in the hospital since it was opened was 3·5. Out of the 140 cases treated, 69 were for malarial fever. Owing to the depressed state of the finances, it was not found possible to carry out in 1893 the original intention of building a Cottage Hospital at the Cayo, and Hospitals at Stann Creek and Punta Gorda similar to the one erected at Orange Walk, but the necessity of these Institutions is pressing, and, should circumstances allow, it is hoped that all these buildings will be erected in 1895.

Charitable and Literary Institutions.

The only Charitable Institutions in the Colony are the Public Hospital, Asylum, and Poor House in Belize, and the Public Hospitals in Corosal and Orange Walk, which have been referred to in the preceding sections.

There is no Literary Institution in existence, though a well meant, but badly organised, attempt was made in 1893 to establish one by private subscription. Without proper plans, and with insufficient funds, the skeleton of what was to be a "People's Hall" was hurriedly run up on a site granted by the Government in 1891, in the centre of the town of Belize. The structure was, however, blown down by the gale of the 6th July, which caused considerable damage to the plantations in the Southern part of the Colony, and no attempt has been made to rebuild it. It is now proposed, under the auspices of the Government, to establish an Institute which would comprise a museum, and library, and reading, writing, and debating rooms. Of such a museum and library a nucleus has already been formed, and contributions from all quarters are desired and invited. To ensure the stability of such an institution, a recently passed law provides that only on the sum of 3,000*l.* having been raised is the building to be commenced.

Meteorological Observations.

According to the observations taken at the meteorological station at Belize, the mean maximum temperature in 1893 was 89° for May, 86° for March and June, 85° for April and September, and 84° for February and July, whilst the mean minimum temperature was 53° for December, 62° for January, 70° for October, 71° for February, 73° for November and 76° for March. The average maximum temperature for the 12 months was 82·6, and the average minimum temperature 73·2. The total rainfall for the year was 51·26 inches, and rain fell on 109 days. No rain fell in April, and only 0·60 inches in March. The greatest rainfal was in September with a total of 10·85 inches.

The following table gives the total rainfall, and the number of days on which rain fell during the last four years :—

Year.	Total Rainfall, Inches.	No. of Days' Rain.
1890 - - -	74·31	124
1891 - - -	66·82	115
1892 - - -	72·64	119
1893 - - -	51·26	109

On 193 days the direction of the wind was S.E., on 67 days N.E., on 30 days N.W., and on 27 days N.

A slight shock of earthquake was felt at 4.30 p.m. on the 6th August.

Savings Bank, and Friendly Societies.

The Government Savings Bank, Belize, was established in 1846, and branches were created at Corosal and Orange Walk in 1881, and at Stann Creek, Punta Gorda, and the Cayo in 1892. In the following table are given the number of depositors on the 31st December of each year from 1884 to 1893, the amount of deposits and withdrawals during each of these years, the amount to the credit of depositors on the 31st December of each year, and the revenue and expenditure of the Savings Bank for each of the ten years.

In the expenditure the cost of the management of the Savings Bank in Belize and in the other towns of the Colony has not been included, seeing that no special staff is set apart for this purpose, the duties connected therewith falling on the officers of the Treasury and on the Commissioners of the various Districts, without additional remuneration.

Year.	No. of Depositors on 31 Dec.	Amount of Deposits during Year.	Amount of withdrawals during Year.	Amount at credit of Depositors on 31 Dec.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
		$	$	$	$	$
1884	342	14,897.90	9,200.00	38,950.96	1,175.90	890.20
1885	372	11,147.11	12,686.48	37,411.69	1,883.90	1,070.73
1886	393	16,091.77	17,099.31	36,404.15	1,208.08	1,149.98
1887	376	7,795.39	9,966.77	35,233.78	1,364.47	1,033.02
1888	359	16,780.56	12,322.49	40,628.04	1,563.38	936.55
1889	408	15,042.32	14,321.96	41,348.76	1,631.53	1,079.70
1890	380	19,231.72	19.586.11	42,040.57	1,631.53	1,352.67
1891	377	17,230.07	16,987.18	42,293.46	1,757.86	1,101.01
1892	370	20,859.30	14,961.68	48,357.02	18,06.66	1,026.89
1893	373	18,751.18	22,040.10	4,380.94	2,000.89	1,197.32

As regards the disposal of the Savings Bank Funds, 7,000*l.*, which at 2*s.* 5*d.* to the dollar are the equivalent of $57,931.03, are invested, whilst $7,104.55 remain in the hands of the Treasurer and the District Commissioners, who are Sub-Accountants. Interest is paid on deposits at the rate of three per cent. per annum, and the amounts inserted in the column headed "Expenditure" represent the interest thus paid during the year.

From the above table it will be seen that the number of depositors in 1893 exceeded the number in 1892 by 3, though the amount of deposits was less by $2,108.17 in 1893 than in 1892. The large increase in the amount withdrawn in 1893 as compared with 1892 is probably due to the depression of trade, and to the necessity that existed in many cases of persons living on their savings, or of utilising their savings for the promotion of their business. The difference of the revenue and expenditure for the year represents a net gain to the Government of $803.57.

The existence of three Friendly Societies in Belize is a healthy indication that the lessons of thrift and self-help are being learnt by its inhabitants. Of these societies, the oldest is the Grand United Order of Odd Fellows, having been established in June 1881, and now counting 66 members. The funds invested by this society amount to $350.

Next comes the Friendly Society of Belize, established in November 1890, and, with 140 members belonging to it, having the considerable sum of $2,094.87 invested in property.

Last comes the Union Friendly Society, established in December 1890, and having no less than 266 members. The funds invested by this society amount to $3,800, and, like the former societies, it was founded to afford assistance to its members in times of sickness, trouble and death. None of these societies receive Government assistance.

Government Houses.

Government House is admirably situated on the South Side of the town of Belize, and, standing in about two acres of land, principally composed of lawns, intersected by a carriage drive, directly faces the sea, from which it is distant only some twenty yards. Included in the grounds are a small flower garden and a Botanic Station, which occupies the site, now greatly improved, of the former kitchen garden. The Botanic Station is managed by a Superintendent, with five labourers, who are also employed in keeping in order Government House grounds proper. Government House itself remains in much the same condition as was described in the report for 1892, and urgently requires repairs, but the estimated cost of these repairs, namely, $11,000, is at present beyond the means of the Colony, and it will probably be found necessary to continue the system of patching which has hitherto been adopted. The house itself is most inconveniently built, and would require, when under repairs, very radical alterations before it could be converted into either a suitable or comfortable residence for the Governor.

Roads, &c.

There are no railways, canals, telegraphs or telephones in the Colony, and the roads, such as they are, with a few exceptions, consist of paths cut into the forest which there is considerable difficulty in keeping clear. The control of the roads throughout the Colony is vested by law in a board, appointed by the Governor, and called the Commissioners of Roads. The Governor is also President of this Board. In each District there are District Road Boards, presided over by the Commissioners of the District. The members of these Boards are the most influential and representative men of the District, and are appointed by the Governor. On the recommendations of these District Boards, the Commissioners of Roads decide as to the road-work to be undertaken during the year, and, having regard to the large extent and nature of the country through which the roads have to run, and the small means at the disposal of the Government, the number and length of roads that are kept open and cleaned during the year must be viewed as creditable to all concerned. The work of cleaning the roads is, as a rule, performed under contract. For many years to come, however, until population and wealth increase, and the country is more opened up, the rivers and seas must continue to be the principal highways of communication.

The following table shows the amounts expended on the roads of the Colony from 1890 to 1893.

Year.	—
	$ c.
1890 - - -	6,162 82
1891 - - -	4,114 02
1892 - - -	4,139 24
1893 - - -	7,533 15

With the exception of very small sums expended on the repair of the streets of the towns of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River in 1893, the above figures are exclusive of the cost of the repair of the streets in the towns of Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk. In the figures given opposite the years 1890 and 1891, the cost of the up-keep of the Haulover Road, which has been laboriously constructed for a length of some six miles through swampy land, and at the present time forms the only outlet by land from Belize, has been included, but the cost of the up-keep, which in 1892 was $2,740.61, and in 1893 $1,229.75, is not included in the figures given above, showing the amounts expended on roads for these two years.

The great increase in the expenditure on roads in 1893 as compared with 1892 is consequent on the increase in local or district funds by the transfer of the moneys received on liquor licenses, under the operation of Ordinance No. 32 of 1892, from General Revenue to the fund of that town where such moneys are received, and this result alone fully proves the wisdom of this legislation, apart from the general satisfaction caused by taxes being spent in the District where they are raised.

In referring to the means of communication which exist in the Colony, the tram line which connects the prosperous and progressive little seaport town of Stann Creek with the Melinda Estate, belonging to the British Honduras Syndicate, should not be overlooked. This tram line, which was opened by His Excellency Sir Alfred Moloney, K.C.M.G., on the 28th May 1892, is 5 miles and 20 chains in length. Its gauge is 2½ feet, and its sleepers and rails are both of steel, the former weighing 32 lbs. to the yard. The road runs along a line 40' feet wide on which is laid an embankment of an average width of 10½ feet, and of a varying height from 1 to 7 feet. The tram is principally used to convey the products of the Melinda Estate to Stann Creek, but the small proprietors bordering the line are allowed, for a very small charge, to make use of the cars for the carriage of their bananas. At the town of Stann Creek, the line runs on to a pier 200 feet in length, which has recently been constructed by the government, and which only requires lengthening to admit of the fruit and other agricultural produce brought down on the cars being at once placed, without a second handling, on board the vessels by which they will be carried to their destination. It is understood that the question of the extension of the tram line is now under the consideration of the Syndicate, and the benefit that the Colony would derive from the opening up of the interior of the District of Stann Creek, the soil and climate of which are especially well adapted for agriculture, would be unquestionably very considerable.

Though no railway at present exists, the question of the possibility of one being constructed has not been lost sight of. The survey which was begun in 1892, with the object of determining the best route through Crown Lands for a railway to the Western frontier of the Colony, had to be discontinued owing to the physical difficulties encountered. What is termed the Belize River route, already surveyed for nearly 40 miles, is considered by some persons the only possible one for a railway to the Western Frontier, but as such a railway would have to pass principally through private lands of by no means a rich nature its advantages would be considerably discounted. Whilst it would unquestionably increase the prospect of any railway proving a financial success if the certainty of its being able to link with any of the Central American Systems could be secured, and whilst it seems proved that in the neighbourhood of Peten there is a mine of wealth awaiting in the form of logwood forests, which are at present valueless owing to there being no means of conveying the wood when cut, but the natural outlet for which would be through the Cayo and Belize districts, still the great advantages, and possibly of a more permanent nature, to be obtained from opening up the rich country in Stann Creek District must not be overlooked.

Though no telegraphs at present exist in the Colony, an Ordinance has recently been added to the Statute Book authorising the construction of telegraph lines and the raising of a loan of 6,000*l.* for that purpose. It is not, however, proposed to take advantage immediately of this legislative authority.

Postal Statistics

The total Revenue of the Post Office for 1893 was $6,903.86, as compared with $7,778.19 for 1892, showing a decrease of $874.33, and the total cost, including $10,184.17 for salaries, wages, &c., and all expenses of Postal Service within the Colony, and $20,000 for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, was $30,184.17 as compared with $31,019.16 for 1892, showing a decrease of $834.99, but a deficit on the service of the year of $23,280.31. The mail service beyond the Colony, which is a weekly one, is performed by steamers belonging to the New Orleans and Belize Royal Mail Steam Ship Company, under a contract which came into force on the 12th January 1892, and expires on the 11th January 1897.

The total number of ordinary letters sent to, and received from, abroad was 79,985, of postcards 1,810, of registered letters 2,597, of newspapers, books and samples 61,078, and of parcels by parcel post 579.

The total number of inland letters passing through the Post Office was 35,507, of newspapers and books 7,088, and of parcels 414.

Money Orders amounting to 944*l.* 3*s.* 7*d.* were issued during the year on the United Kingdom and other countries, and orders amounting to 78*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.* were paid.

The inland postal order system was only introduced in August, but between that month and the 31st of December, 135 orders, amounting in value to $692.25 were issued, and as the advantages of this system are becoming known, greater use is being made thereof.

In addition to the Central Post Office in Belize, eight other Post Offices were open in different parts of the Colony at the end of the year.

Conclusion.

In concluding this summary of the Colony's position at the end of 1893, as illustrated by the preceding paragraphs, I may perhaps be allowed to briefly refer to the fortitude with which the stress arising from a depreciated currency, a marked shrinkage of trade, the low price of mahogany, and the devastation of the fruit plantations in the southern parts of the Colony by the disastrous gale of the 6th July, has been borne by all classes without

British Honduras. 1893.

exception, and to point hopefully to the dawning of what appear to be happier and more prosperous times for British Honduras. Two years of marked improvement in the Public Health have now been succeeded by a third year, which, in this respect, seems likely to surpass its predecessors, whilst the immediate prospect of a final settlement of the currency on a stable basis, the increasing activity, since the establishment under local management of the Mutual Fruit and Steamship Company, in agricultural industries, which is so forcibly exemplified in the comparative table, given under Agricultural Statistics, of the exports of agricultural produce for the first half-year of the years 1892, 1893, and 1894, and the prominence that the timber industry, exclusive of the cutting of logwood and mahogany, is now assuming, have already begun to exercise a beneficial influence on the community at large, and it is with reasonable confidence that we can now look forward in the near future to a revival of trade, to a rapid increase in the number of economic products, and so to that natural development of the resources of the Colony on which the happiness and prosperity of its inhabitants must finally depend.

E. B. Sweet-Escott,
Colonial Secretary.

July 17, 1894.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 162.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1894.

(For Report for 1893 *see* No. 116 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
February 1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
125	St. Helena - - - - - -	1893
126	Ceylon - - - - - -	"
127	Fiji - - - - - -	"
128	Grenada - - - - - -	"
129	Sierra Leone - - - - -	"
130	British Bechuanaland - - - -	1893–4
131	British New Guinea - - - -	1892–3 & 1893–4
132	Lagos - - - - - -	1893
133	British Guiana - - - - -	1893–4
134	Jamaica - - - - - -	"
135	Newfoundland - - - - -	1893
136	Gold Coast - - - - - -	"
137	Zululand - - - - - -	1894
138	Bermuda - - - - - -	"
139	Bahamas - - - - - -	"
140	Barbados - - - - - -	"
141	Turks and Caicos Islands - - - -	"
142	Malta - - - - - -	"
143	Gambia - - - - - -	"
144	Windward Islands - - - - -	"
145	Trinidad and Tobago - - - -	"
146	Gibraltar - - - - - -	"
147	Falkland Islands - - - - -	"
148	Hong Kong - - - - -	"
149	Straits Settlements - - - - -	"
150	Lagos - - - - - -	"
151	Seychelles - - - - - -	"
152	Basutoland - - - - - -	1894–5
153	Fiji - - - - - -	1894
154	St. Helena - - - - - -	"
155	Ceylon - - - - - -	"
156	Mauritius - - - - - -	"
157	Labuan - - - - - -	"
158	Gold Coast - - - - -	"
159	British Guiana - - - - -	1894–5
160	Sierra Leone - - - - -	1894
161	Jamaica - - - - - -	1894–5

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast - -	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand - - -	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone - -	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada - - -	Emigration.

No. 162.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

[For Reports for 1893 *see* No. 116.]

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1894.

ADMINISTRATOR SWEET-ESCOTT to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize,
September 30, 1895.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of British Honduras for the year 1894 by Mr. W. J. McKinney, C.M.G., the Acting Colonial Secretary.

2. I regret that it should be necessary once again to apologise for the delay in the transmission of this Report and of the Blue Book itself, but the latter, though compiled some time back, even now is not ready to be forwarded, owing to the pressure of work in the Government printing office.

3. The accompanying report is considerably shorter than those for the years 1891, 1892, and 1893, but this is principally due to the exhaustive character of the reports for the three years named, making it unnecessary that details should be given under several headings in the report for 1894, and to the impossibility of drawing any exact comparison between the financial position of the Colony at the end of 1894 and that at the close of 1893, in consequence of the change in the currency which took place on the 15th October 1894, and the method which had to be adopted of converting to the new standard of value the revenue and expenditure up to the 14th of that month. A few general remarks from me in supplement of the Acting Colonial Secretary's Report may not, however, be out of place.

4. Up to the year 1885, the revenue and expenditure of the Colony were given in the annual Blue Book in £ *s. d.*, but from 1886 onwards they appear in dollars and cents. By the Queen's Proclamation of the 15th September 1887 the standard of value became the Guatemalan dollar, the value of which fluctuated between 3*s.* 1*d.* at the beginning of 1888 and 2*s.* in 1894. It will be easily seen, therefore, excluding from consideration goods liable to an *ad valorem* duty, how great has been the annual loss of revenue from Customs dues to the Government by the gradual depreciation of the Guatemalan dollar or sol, whilst even in the case of goods paying *ad valorem* duty there has also been a considerable loss, seeing that the Treasury rating of the sol has invariably been higher than its actual exchange value. For example, in 1893 and 1894 the Treasury rates were fixed at 2*s.* 9*d.* and 2*s.* 5*d.* respectively, whilst the actual exchange value fell in June 1893 to 2*s.*, and has not risen since, except during

one or two months, above that amount. It is difficult, therefore, to compare, with the view of gauging the actual prosperity of the Colony, the figures under revenue and expenditure, or imports and exports for 1894 with any of the years from 1886 onwards. It will not, however, be altogether unfair to institute a comparison between the financial position of the Colony at the end of 1894 and at the end of each previous decade for the last 50 years, as shown by the following table, and for this purpose I have converted the revenue and expenditure, and the value of the imports and exports for last year into £ *s. d.*:—

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£	£	£
1844 - - -	22,372	18,302	273,073	281,850
1854 - - -	26,327	19,375	241,764	452,315
1864 - - -	31,544	28,364	291,144	373,197
1874 - - -	43,722	40,063	178,397	240,628
1884 - - -	51,866	53,585	237,588	317,449
1894 - - -	38,213	45,056	162,390	262,302

To the revenue for the year 1894 should be added 2,742*l.*, being the amount of revenue derived from local taxation, and placed to the credit of the various towns of the Colony, and to the expenditure for the same year 3,524*l.*, being the amount expended on local services in the towns and districts. The net revenue for the year 1894 was, therefore, 40,955*l.*, and the net expenditure 48,580*l.*, whilst, therefore, the revenue for 1894 was less by 2,767*l.* than it was in 1874, the expenditure was greater by 8,517*l.* It must, however, be remembered that even so late as 1874 Belize was practically regarded as the Colony, and that the so-called county districts, that is, the districts exclusive of Belize, did not then receive the attention to which they were entitled, and which is now given. The system of local funds and local expenditure was only instituted in 1887, and the revenue previously derived from liquor licenses and other local taxes helped to swell the general revenue. The increased attention paid to the county districts during the last 20 years, with improved administrative machinery, has naturally caused an increase in expenditure, but, unfortunately, there has been no corresponding increase in revenue, having regard to the increase in population, which, in 1844, was given as 10,809, in 1854 as 18,000, in 1864 as 25,635, in 1874 as 24,710, in 1884 as 27,452, and in 1894 as 32,899. The problem, therefore, with which the Government of this Colony is now confronted is an increasing population, with a natural demand for increased expenditure, and with a decreasing revenue to meet that demand.

To solve the difficulty there would appear to be two alternatives, either to reduce expenditure in every direction, with the consequence of seriously impairing the efficiency of the administration of the Government, or to increase the revenue by increasing the taxation. Lightly taxed though the Colony now is, it is to be earnestly hoped that the second alternative will not be rendered necessary. At the present time, the logwood industry may be regarded as the only remunerative one in the Colony, the trade in mahogany having been, at all events for the present, practically abandoned, owing to the unremunerative rate at which the timber is now sold in England. The existence of the fruit trade, comprising bananas, plantains, and cocoanuts, in which a very large number of small agriculturalists is engaged, is seriously threatened in consequence of the low prices realised in the United States, and there are not yet any permanent crops sufficiently long established to take its place.

With regard to the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for 1894 a few words of explanation are necessary. In 1824, or 70 years ago, the value of the imports was given in the Blue Book as 262,988*l.*, or over 100,000*l.* more than their net value in 1894, whilst the value of exports for the same year was 272,826*l.*, or over 10,000*l.* more than in 1894. In no year since 1824 have imports fallen so low as in 1894, whilst at only one of the five periods given in the foregoing table, namely, in 1874, was the value of the exports lower than in 1894. The decrease in the value of the Colony's imports and exports should be attributed in great measure to the loss of the transit trade which Belize previously enjoyed, a trade which the connection of British Honduras with the railway system of Central America would possibly to some extent revive.

5. I have referred to the population of the Colony at five different periods, and, as the enclosed report is silent on the subject of vital statistics, it may be desirable for me to say a few words on this head. The area of the Colony is given as 7,562 square miles, that is a little more than the area of Wales, but the population at the end of 1894 was only 32,899. Thus the average population to the square mile is 4·35, the population per square mile or each of the six districts being as follows:—

Corosal - - - - -	7·48
Belize - - - - -	6·94
Toledo - - - - -	4·03
The Cayo - - - -	3·53
Orange Walk - - - -	3·48
Stann Creek - - - -	2·11

The total death-rate for the whole Colony in 1894 was 36·71, which compares favourably with the death-rate of 43·66 in 1893, of 40·73 in 1892, and of 39·46 in 1891. Had it not been for the very heavy death-rate of 55·34 in the Corosal district, and of 52·22 in the Toledo district, the average for the whole Colony in the year

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1894.

1894 would have been far lower. Dysentery and malarial fever were the chief factors in producing these heavy death-rates, whilst, when it is stated that no less than one-fifth of the children who are born die before attaining to one year of age, it will be readily understood why the death-rate of the Colony is so great as it is. Amongst Europeans the death-rate is small as compared with that in other tropical countries, but death is especially busy amongst those who are of Yucatican and Indian origin, whose principal food is corn in different forms, and who are of indifferent physique and stamina, and amongst those of the Carib population, who place confidence in so-called bush doctors and bush-remedies, and have a supreme contempt for the treatment of qualified medical practitioners. In many respects, the climate of British Honduras, though exhausting, is not unhealthy, and Europeans can engage in out-door occupations without incurring serious risk, if properly protected from the sun, and if provided with a few simple remedies against fever.

6. I wish to take this opportunity of briefly referring to the principal events of 1894, regarding which some misconception has existed. At the beginning of the year there was a general feeling of expectancy and hopeful anticipation. The change in the currency, for which an almost unanimous appeal to the Home Government had been made, had been sanctioned, and arrangements were in train for carrying it into effect. It is true that the price of mahogany had fallen so much that it was being cut at a loss, and that there had been and still was a great shrinkage in general trade. But the price of logwood still kept up, and with the change in the currency it was hoped that a fresh impetus would be given to business of every kind. The change of currency was inaugurated on the 15th October, and, though no hitch occurred in the delicate transaction which it necessitated, there undoubtedly existed a feeling of disappointment in the minds of the poorer and more ignorant classes, when they found that the exchange value of each sol which they had in their possession was only 50 cents of the new currency, for the Guatemalan sol or dollar had at the time sunk to that value, and had, therefore, been assessed for exchange purposes at the Treasury at the above-mentioned rate. The discontent which was caused by all the prices of all articles not being at once adjusted in accordance with the new currency, a want of appreciation of their position, and, it would seem, an intentional misunderstanding of the principle on which salaries had been temporarily adjusted, namely, at 72 cents of the new dollar for every sol received before, so as to raise the salaries to the equivalent of that paid in 1892, found expression in a mutiny on the part of some of the constabulary, and resulted in the discharge of 42 men of the force.

Later, again, ignorance as to the true value of the new currency, fear that wages would be reduced beyond what was fair and right, and a somewhat unconciliating attitude on the part of some employers of labour, terminated in a riot in Belize, on the 16th of December, which was only stopped by the landing of an armed detachment from H.M.S. "Partridge," under the command of Lieutenant and Commander N. Macalister, then in harbour. Formidable, however, as it at one time appeared that the effects of the riot would be, no loss of life fortunately occurred, and comparatively little loss of property, the total damage done amounting only to about $2,500, and that principally in one store. I have no desire to under-estimate the ill-effects resulting from the scenes of the 11th December and the next few following days, but I can see no grounds for anticipating that the events of last year will be repeated, whilst unquestionably, if there is any class that has benefited from the change in the currency, it is the labouring class. The price of domestic labour and of skilled labour is nearly the same in the present currency as it was in the old, whilst the prices of commodities have been considerably reduced. Again, the hired labourers engaged for the wood-cutting industry, who feared that their wages would be reduced to $5 a month with rations, found that the lowest amount actually paid was $8 with rations, whilst many received as much as $10 a month, and the causes of discontent, partly imaginary, partly real, have been removed. The change in the currency has not, it is true, brought about that prosperity which many thought must be necessarily associated with it, but the commercial business of the Colony rests now on a more stable basis than it did before. For those who are willing to work, work at fair rates of pay can easily be found. The happiness and well-being of a Colony depend not on the prosperity of a few, but on the improved social condition of the many, and if the development of British Honduras is secured by the opening up of its country by railway enterprise, I can hopefully look forward to its winning in time a leading position in Greater Britain.

I have, &c.
E. B. Sweet-Escott,
Administering the Government.

Report on the Blue Book of British Honduras for the Year 1894.

Taxes, Duties, &c.

The only change in the Customs Tariff was made in December as follows:—

Duty on tobacco was reduced from ten cents per pound to eight cents; and the duty on soap from 50 cents per 100 pounds to 25 cents.

The following goods were placed on the free list:—Beef, flour, pork; and furniture and household effects of *bonâ fide* immigrants.

The light dues on vessels were adjusted by fixing the maximum amount to be paid by any one ship at any one time at $125.

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1894.

GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Up to the 15th October the revenue was collected in sols, the old currency, and from the 15th October in gold, the new currency; the amount collected in the old currency has been converted into the new at the prescribed rate, viz.:—50 cents of the new as equal to one dollar of the old. The total revenue for the year given in gold was $185,711.72, of which amount $100,057.69 was from Customs, and $44,673.94 from internal taxation.

The expenditure (that up to the 15th October, converted as in the case of the Revenue) was as follows:—

	$	c.
Ordinary expenditure - - -	194,009	29
Commissioners of Currency - -	127	42
Expenses and cost in connection with change of currency to a gold standard -	22,781	09
Military - - - - -	69	96
Public works, extraordinary - -	1,988	62
Total exclusive of Belize Town and harbour improvements - -	218,976	38
Belize Town and harbour improvements -	11,307	03
Total expenditure - - - -	230,283	41

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The general account of the Colony, excluding savings bank and public debt accounts, showed, on the 31st December 1894, assets amounting to $8,284.57 in gold over liabilities; on savings bank account there was a balance of $16,181.51 over liabilities. The public debt account showed liabilities to the amount of $148,200.08, consisting of the loans of 1886, 1888, and 1893 respectively.

LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The revenue and expenditure of the several towns of the Colony is given in the table below. The amounts are the equivalent in gold:—

——	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Balance to Credit at Beginning of the Year.		Balance to Credit at End of the Year.	
	$	c.	$	c	$	c.	$	c.
Belize - - -	10,869	80	11,467	02	2,038	02	1,440	80
Corosal - - -	1,178	72	2,411	58	2,459	95	1,227	09
Orange Walk - -	877	31	2,168	98	1,628	03	336	36
Stann Creek - -	300	43	464	96	332	47	167	94
Mullins River - -	32	83	93	89	331	37	270	31
Punta Gorda - -	7	50	104	24	293	71	232	97
Monkey River - -	11	25	109	92	477	44	378	77
The Cayo - -	50	10	300	00	300	10	50	10

The smallness of the Revenue is to be accounted for by no receipts for liquor business in 1894, the licenses for 1895 not having been issued until January 1895, instead of in December previous, as was formerly the practice.

Local Boards.

The Local Boards of Belize consist of the Central Road Board, constituted under chapter 80 of the Consolidated Laws, of which the Governor is President, with extended powers over the whole Colony; a district road board, subject to the Central Road Board; the Local Board of Health, which is subject to the control of the Governor-in-Council, as Central Board of Health and the Quarantine Board, constituted under the recently passed and comprehensive Quarantine Ordinance, No. 26 of 1894. In addition, there are the following bodies all owing their existence to legislative enactments:—the Education Board, the Board of Governors of the British Honduras Institute, the Committee of Medical Registration, and the Commissioners of Currency.

In each of the districts there are a local board of Health, controlled by the Governor-in-Council, and a local road board under the Central Road Board, whose recommendations are subject to the approval of the Central Road Board. The Commissioners of respective districts are the presidents of these local boards. It has not proved practicable up to the present to bring into force Ordinance No. 29 of 1894, consisting of 146 sections, and consolidating and amending the law relating to the public health in British Honduras, and Ordinance No. 30 of 1894, which provides for the establishment of district boards; but so soon as these measures become operative the existing local boards will disappear, and be replaced by a district board which, presided over by the Commissioner of the district, will be entrusted with extensive powers as regards health and municipal matters. The same radical change will be effected in Belize, the Colonial Secretary, however, instead of the district Commissioner, being designated by law chairman of the board.

Public Works.

The amount expended on Public Works of all kinds in 1894, except the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements, was $12,471.76, of which amount $10,483.14 were spent on the maintenance of public buildings and roads, and in general services connected with their upkeep, and $1,988.62 on Public Works Extraordinary.

The amounts expended on carrying out the works in connection with the improvement of the town and harbour of Belize amounted to $11,307.03, bringing up the total expenditnre on this service to the end of 1894 to $156,203.40.

Legislation.

No less than 36 Ordinances, the same number as in 1892, were added to the Statute Book in 1894, many being measures of considerable scope and importance. Of these the following should be specially noticed :—

No. 6. Authorising the acquisition of lands for undertakings of a public nature.

No. 8. Consolidating and amending the law relating to the savings bank.

No. 9, which lays down the procedure to be followed in all criminal cases, and repeals chapter 24 of "the Consolidated Laws."

No. 11. To render more effectual the provisions for the protection of property from destruction or injury by fire.

No. 14. To regulate the Government medical service and medical establishments of the Colony.

No. 16. For establishing a British Honduras Institute.

No. 19. To provide for the licensing and registration of medical practitioners.

No. 23. For establishing an agricultural society.

No. 26. To amend and consolidate the law relating to quarantine.

No. 28. To provide for the construction and management of electric telegraphs.

No. 29. To consolidate the law relating to public health.

No. 30. To provide for the establishment of district boards.

No. 31. Respecting the coinage.

No. 32. To provide for the issue of Government paper currency.

Councils.

The Executive Council is composed of the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney-General, the Inspector-Commandant, and three unofficial members appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor; and the Legislative Council of the Colonial Secretary, the Treasurer, the Attorney-General, and five unofficial members also appointed by the Queen on the recommendation of the Governor. The Governor is President of both Councils.

During the year, with the approval of the Secretary of State, a standing financial committee, composed of all the official and unofficial members of the Legislative Council, with the Colonial Secretary in the chair, was constituted for the consideration and discussion of all matters submitted to it by the Government in connection with the annual appropriation and supplementary supply bills, and especially with any proposal for expenditure not ordinarily provided for. The constitution of this Committee has the advantage of enabling the Government to take the sense of the members of the Legislative Council on any matter involving expenditure of public money, although the Council itself is not in session.

PENSIONS.

No addition was made to the pension list in 1894. One pensioner, Mr. J. H. Le Croix, formerly keeper of the Queen's warehouses, died.

EDUCATION.

At the close of 1894 there were 44 assisted schools, an increase of four on 1893, as follows:—

Belize district - - - -	20
Corosal district - - - -	4
Orange Walk district - - -	6
Stann Creek district - - - -	8
Toledo district - - - -	5
Cayo district - - .. - -	1

The average enrolment was, boys, 1,771; girls, 1,452; total, 3,223, being 44 in excess of that of 1893; and the average daily attendance during the year was 2,252, showing 180 over 1893.

The total Government expenditure on account of education amounted to $10,400.81 in gold.

CURRENCY.

The Guatemalan dollar continued to be the standard of currency until the 15th October, when Ordinance No. 31 of 1894, "respecting the coinage," was brought into operation by which the gold dollar of the United States of America was made the standard coin of British Honduras.

At the same time the gold coins of the United States specified below were by the Ordinance declared to be a legal tender for the amounts specified:—

	$	c.
Quarter eagle - - - -	2	50
Three dollar piece - - -	3	00
Half-eagle - - - -	5	00
Eagle - - - - -	10	00
Double-eagle - - - -	20	0

The British sovereign was also declared a legal tender for $4.86.

The half-sovereign for $2.43.

The Ordinance further provided for the issue of subsidiary coins as follows:—

		c.
Fifty cent piece - - - -	silver	50
Twenty-five cent piece - - -	,,	25
Ten cent piece - - - -	,,	10
Five cent piece - - - -	,,	5
One cent piece - - -	mixed metal	1

The gold coins specified above were declared a legal tender for the payment of any amount.

In the case of silver coins, for payment of any amount not exceeding ten dollars; and in the case of mixed metal or nickel for payment of an amount not exceeding fifty cents.

Simultaneously with the change of the standard of currency, Ordinance No. 32 of 1894, "to provide for the issue of Government paper currency," was brought into force.

Under this Ordinance currency notes of the following denomination have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

A currency note is a legal tender in British Honduras of the amount expressed therein.

The holder of a currency note is entitled to obtain on demand during office hours at the office of the Commissioners of Currency payment in current coin either gold or silver, at the option of the Commissioners, of the amount expressed in the note, but no person can be required to accept more than ten dollars in silver coins.

Imports.

The following is a summary of the total value of the imports for 1894. The value is given in gold:—

	$	c.
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics - - - - -	336,277	00
2. Raw materials other than textile and metal - - - - -	20,277	00
3. Manufactured materials—		
(1.) Textile - - - -	152,674	00
(2.) Metal - - - -	68,546	50
(3.) Other - - - -	98,400	00
(4.) Coin, bullion, and specie of all kinds	118,039	50
	794,214	00

The imports from the United Kingdom amounted to $317,876, from the United States to $390,432.50, and the balance from various countries.

Exports.

The total value of the exports amounted to $1,274,791.50 in gold, of which the value exported to the United Kingdom was $596,159.50 and to the United States, $407,969.50.

The exports included 2,202,214 cocoanuts, 26,346 tons logwood, 5,559,763 feet of mahogany, 460,446 bunches of bananas, and 1,986,225 plantains.

SHIPPING.

The shipping entered and cleared was as follows :—

Entered.

Sailing vessels 411, tons, 33,586; of these 208, of a tonnage 9,776 tons, entered with cargoes, and 203, of a tonnage 23,810 tons, in ballast.

173 steamers, of a tonnage of 111,756 tons, entered with cargoes, and 13 with a tonnage of 9,432 tons, in ballast.

Cleared.

266 sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 31,226 tons, cleared with cargoes, and 101, with a tonnage of 3,620 tons, in ballast.

178 steamers, of a tonnage of 112,890 tons, cleared with cargoes, and 8, of a tonnage 6,819 tons, in ballast.

32 more sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 2,651 tons, and 42 more steamers, with a tonnage of 13,247 tons, entered in 1894 than in 1893.

7 more sailing vessels, with a tonnage of 648 tons, and 40 more steamers, with a tonnage of 9,478 tons, cleared in 1894 than in 1893.

GAOLS AND PRISONERS.

The total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony was 526; of these 369 were for penal imprisonment, being 26 fewer than in 1893. The daily average number in the Belize prison was 52·04. One death occurred in prison during the year.

SAVINGS BANK.

The number of the depositors on the 31st December 1894 was 366, being 7 less than at the end of December 1893.

The deposits in 1894 amounted to $3,755.43, and the amount of withdrawals to $11,266.98.

On the 31st December 1894 the amount to the credit of depositors was $19,674.36, and $34,313.26 of savings banks funds were invested in England, and $1,542.61 were in the hands of the Treasurer.

The above amounts are gold, transactions previous to 15th October having been converted at the prescribed rate.

CROWN LAND.

During the year 37 grants of Crown lands were made, 35 of which were for parcels of land under 100 acres, and 2 for parcels above 100 acres. The total quantity of land alienated was 1,431½ acres.

POSTAL.

The receipts of the Post Office for 1894, converted into gold, were $4,372.23 and the expenditure, including subsidies, $13,582.06.

The total number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad in 1893 and 1894 was as follows :—

—	1893.	1894.
Letters ordinary - - -	79,985	86,932
Letters registered - - -	2,597	2,893
Post cards - - - -	1,810	2,425
Newspapers, books, &c. - -	61,078	61,125
Parcels by Parcel Post - -	579	597

Inland.

Letters - - - - -	35,507	40,638
Newspapers, &c. - - - -	7,088	8,532
Parcels - - - - -	414	248

Money Orders, amounting to 695*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*, were issued during the year on the United Kingdom and other countries, and orders, amounting to 103*l.* 12*s.* 7*d.*, were drawn on the Colony.

Since the introduction of the currency notes the issue of Inland Postal Orders has become almost *nil.*

On the change of currency the rate of postage on letters to all places abroad was fixed at five cents per half ounce ; and on inland letter at two cents.

HOSPITALS, &c.

The number of admissions into the Belize hospital in 1894 was 268,248 males and 20 females, and the daily average in hospital was 17·21 as compared with 18·24 in 1893. The number discharged as cured was 246 and 1 relieved. The number of deaths was 29.

The staff of the hospital was materially strengthened by the arrival from England of a trained nurse, Miss Beresford.

There were four admissions into the lunatic asylum, three males and one female. The daily average number of patients was 28·68. Two were discharged as cured and three died.

Ten persons, males, were admitted into the poor house; and the daily average was 12·95, as compared with 9·10 in 1893. There were nine deaths.

The number admitted into the Corosal hospital was 138, of which two only were females. The daily average was 5·34; 99 patients were discharged as cured, and 32 relieved. There were 14 deaths.

At Orange Walk 156 patients were admitted and 158 discharged, 152 as cured and 6 as relieved. The daily average in hospital was 6·75. There were five deaths.

This hospital, which was opened in February 1893, and which had proved a great boon to the district, was unfortunately burnt down in December 1894.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

According to observations taken at the Meteorological station, Belize, from May to December 1894, the shade temperature for those months was as follows:—

Month.	Maximum.	Minimum.
	°	°
May - - -	89	69
June - - -	90	74
July - - -	89	73
August - - -	90	74
September - -	94	70
October - - -	93	67
November - -	88	73
December - -	88	46

The total rainfall for the like period was 63·65 inches; rain fell on 97 days. The greatest rainfall was in May, 16·34 inches, and in November, 14·41 inches.

W. J. McKINNEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

October 4, 1895.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 184.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1895.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 162 of this Series.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1896.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
151	Seychelles	1894
152	Basutoland	1894–5
153	Fiji	1894
154	St. Helena	"
155	Ceylon	"
156	Mauritius	"
157	Labuan	"
158	Gold Coast	"
159	British Guiana	"
160	Sierra Leone	"
161	Jamaica	1894–5
162	British Honduras	1894
163	British Bechuanaland	1894–5
164	Newfoundland	1894
165	Gambia	"
166	Bermuda	"
167	Leeward Islands	"
168	British New Guinea	1894–5
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	"
171	Gibraltar	"
172	Malta	"
173	Barbados	"
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
175	Falkland Islands	"
176	St. Helena	"
177	Bahamas	"
178	Hong Kong	"
179	Windward Islands	"
180	Labuan	"
181	Trinidad and Tobago	"
182	Seychelles	1895
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1895.

No. 184.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1894, *see* No. 162.)

Sir ALFRED MOLONEY to Mr. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize,
SIR, September 25, 1896.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Acting Colonial Secretary's report on the Blue Book for the year 1895.

I have, &c.
ALFRED MOLONEY,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK FOR 1895.

TAXES, DUTIES, &c.

The following further changes were made in the Customs tariff in January: bacon, butter, cheese and hams, previously paying rated duty, were included in the ad valorem duty of 10 per cent.

The duty on cocoa was raised from two cents to three cents per pound; and the duty of three cents per pound on sugar was changed to one cent and a half per pound on unrefined sugar, and two cents per pound on refined sugar.

The duty on claret wine was changed from 1 dollar to 50 cents per gallon.

GENERAL REVENUE.

The total ordinary general revenue, including sales of Crown lands ($3,468.64) amounted to $238,483.21. A sum of $16,128.92 was realised by sale of Savings Bank surplus stock, thus bringing up the total receipts to $254,612.13. In addition to this $20,000 in silver currency was received from the Mint in England, and $500 in bronze coins.

The principal sources of revenue were:—

	$	c.
Customs - - - -	131,961	13
Excise - - - - -	46,261	18
Court fines and fees of office -	17,033	48
Post Office - - -	7,145	73
Light and wharf dues - - -	8,629	64
Land tax - - - -	11,643	77

The excise duty fell short of the amount estimated by $18,738.82, due to the abnormal quantity of rum taken out of bond in October 1894, immediately before the change of currency.

General Expenditure.

The ordinary general expenditure amounted to $257,885.61—the extraordinary expenditure, including Belize town and harbour improvements, to $27,075.74, as follows:—

	$	c.
Public Works - - -	1,435	31
Expenses and cost of change of currency to a gold standard -	15,446	96
Belize town and harbour improvements - - - -	10,193	47
Total ordinary general and extraordinary expenditure amounted to - - -	284,961	35

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets and liabilities on the 31st December, General Account, were as follows:—

	$	c.
Assets - - - - -	37,845	24
Liabilities - - - - -	19,083	41
Excess of assets over liabilities -	18,761	83

Savings Bank Account.

	$	c.
Assets - - - - -	22,307	00
Liabilities - - - -	20,998	28
Excess of assets over liabilities -	1,308	72

Public Debt Account.

	$	c.
Assets - - - - -	24,916	18
Liabilities - - - -	168,815	00
Excess of liabilities - -	143,898	82

British Honduras. 1895.

Local Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the several districts:—

District.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Balance to Credit at Beginning of Year.		Balance to Credit at End of Year.	
	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.	$	c.
Belize - - -	21,491	82	19,015	62	1,440	80	3,917	00
Corosal - -	4,159	92	3,924	40	1,227	09	1,462	61
Orange Walk - -	3,195	07	1,999	73	336	36	1,531	70
Stann Creek - -	1,451	96	1,400	34	438	25	489	87
Toledo - - -	697	06	602	65	611	74	706	15
The Cayo - -	700	00	499	40	50	00	250	60

Local Boards.

The District Boards Ordinance, No. 30, of 1894, was brought into operation on the 1st July 1895. Under this Ordinance a District Board has been constituted for each of the six districts into which the Colony is divided with the Colonial Secretary as Chairman of the Belize District Board, and the District Commissioner in each of the other districts as Chairman.

Each district board is entrusted with the general rule and good government of its district, and, subject to the provisions of the Ordinance and the standing orders and rules made thereunder, may do all things necessary to carry out such trust, and in particular do, or cause to be done, all or any of the matters following: Establish, regulate, control, maintain, and manage markets, slaughter-houses, bath-houses, wash-houses; impose rents and fees upon persons using, or benefited by, such places. Light towns or popular areas; impose such restrictions upon owners of land in towns as may be necessary to prevent any building upon such land from being or becoming a source of danger to surrounding property whether from fire or otherwise; generally to perform all duties and functions and to do such acts as may be necessary for the improvement, development, and conservancy of the district.

Police.

In April an Ordinance, No. 10, of 1895, was passed constituting a new police force, separate and distinct from the constabulary, for service in the Belize and southern districts of the Colony, the duties of the constabulary being confined to the northern and western districts.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1895.

The new force consists of :—

1 superintendent.
2 check sergeants.
1 detective sergeant.
4 corporals.
14 first-class constables.
20 second-class constables.
28 third-class constables.

Mr. D. D. Barnes, formerly of the British Guiana Constabulary, is the Superintendent, and the two check sergeants have been obtained from the London police. The remainder of the force has been obtained in the Colony.

PUBLIC WORKS.

With the exception of a new house for the District Commissioner, built at Punta Gorda, no new work was undertaken in 1895.

Extensive repairs were done to Government House.

CROWN LANDS.

Twenty-four grants were made in 1895, and the land granted amounted to 2,871½ acres.

LEGISLATION.

Twenty-three Ordinances were passed in 1895, of which the following are the most important:—

No. 1. To consolidate and amend the Law relating to Duties of Customs and Excise.
No. 4. To amend Chapter 114 of the Consolidated Laws relating to certain improvements in the town of Belize, and certain portions of the foreshore and harbour.
No. 5. To amend Ordinance No. 8 of 1894, relating to the Savings Bank.
No. 7. To amend the Public Health Ordinance, 1894.
No. 10. To organise a Police Force.
No. 11. To provide compensation for Losses by Riots.
No. 17. To authorise and regulate the working of a tram line or railway by the British Honduras Syndicate, Limited, and to authorise the improvement and extension of the same.
No. 22. To establish a Reward Fund for the benefit of the Police Force.
No 23. To prevent the wearing of certain uniforms by unauthorised persons.

Civil Establishment.

The changes during the year were:—

Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, administered the Government from the 26th April to the 2nd December during the absence from the Colony, on leave, of his Excellency Governor Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G.

Mr. McKinney, C.M.G., Treasurer, acted as Colonial Secretary during the same period.

Mr. S. G. Woods, Registrar-General, acted as Chief Justice from the 1st September to the end of the year in the place of Chief Justice Anderson, on leave.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States; the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values.

The British sovereign is a legal tender for $4.86; and the half-sovereign for $2.43.

There is a subsidiary silver currency consisting of:—

5 cent piece,
10 cent piece,
25 cent piece,
50 cent piece,

and there is a bronze 1 cent piece.

Silver is a legal tender to $10; and bronze to 50 cents. There is also an issue of currency notes consisting of:—

One dollar,
Two dollars,
Five dollars,
Ten dollars,
Fifty dollars,
One hundred dollars.

A currency note is a legal tender for the amount expressed therein.

The holder of a currency note is entitled to obtain, on demand, of the Commissioners of Currency payment in current coin, gold or silver, but not more than $10 in silver.

Education.

At the end of 1895 there were 46 Government-aided schools, distributed as follows:—

Belize District	20
Corosal District	7
Orange Walk District	4
Stann Creek District	9
Toledo	6

Number of scholars on the rolls, 3,802.

Average daily attendance during the year, 2,696. Amount of Government grant in aid, $11,136,06.

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1895.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

For Belize.

The minimum shade temperature (January) was 50·0, and the maximum (April) 93·0.

91·06 inches of rain fell during the year, and the number of days on which rain fell was 125.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

Imports.

The following gives a summary of the value of the imports for 1895:—

	$
1. Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics	527,993
2. Raw materials	229,730
3. Manufactured materials:—	
(1.) Textile	292,967
(2.) Metal	84,268
(3.) Other	142,735
4. Coin, bullion, and specie	175,947
Total	1,453,640

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom amounted to $427,802; from the United States, $751,575.

Exports.

The exports amounted to $1,283,998 in value.

	$
To the United Kingdom	586,841
To the United States	331,040

The balance, $366,117, to various other countries.

The exports included—

Bananas, bunches	454,316
Cedar, feet	62,965
Cocoanuts	1,440,816
Logwood, tons	30,830
Mahogany, feet	2,868,346
Oranges, barrels	376
Pine apples	8,486
Plantains	1,044,020
Sapodilla Gum, lbs.	705,478
Sponges, lbs.	8,265

SHIPPING.

Statement of number and tonnage of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared in 1895 as compared with 1894.

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894 - - -	414	33,586	186	121,188
1895 - - -	397	40,102	182	121,368

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894 - - -	367	34,846	186	119,709
1895 - - -	367	32,203	182	121,513

SAVINGS BANK.

On the 31st December 1895, the deposits in the Savings Bank amounted to $20,998.28. The deposits during the year amounted to $9,851.17, and the withdrawals $9,039.58. Excess of deposits over withdrawals, $811.59.

POSTAL.

The revenue of the Post Office for 1895 amounted to $7,145.75, and the expenditure, including subsidies, to $17,056.32.

The number of letters and other articles sent to, and received from, places abroad in 1893, 1894, and 1895, were as follows:—

—	1893.	1894.	1895.
Ordinary letters - - -	79,985	86,932	105,425
Registered letters - - -	2,897	2,893	3,797
Post cards - - - -	1,810	2,425	2,144
Newspapers, books, &c. - -	61,078	61,125	67,819
Parcels by Parcel Post - -	579	597	772

British Honduras. 1895.

Inland.

	1893.	1894.	1895.
Letters - - - -	35,507	40,638	36,187
Newspapers, &c. - - -	7,088	8,532	7,062
Parcels - - - - -	414	248	249

Money Orders issued on places abroad during 1895 amounted to 823*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, and Money Orders drawn on the Colony amounted to 174*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*

W. J. McKINNEY,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

September 23, 1896.

COLONIAL REPORTS.—ANNUAL.

No. 207.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1896.

(For Report for 1895, *see* No. 184.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
September 1897.

LONDON:
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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
169	Zululand	1895
170	Sierra Leone	,,
171	Gibraltar	,,
172	Malta	,,
173	Barbados	,,
174	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
175	Falkland Islands	,,
176	St. Helena	,,
177	Bahamas	,,
178	Hong Kong	,,
179	Windward Islands	,,
180	Labuan	,,
181	Trinidad and Tobago	,,
182	Seychelles	,,
183	Mauritius and Rodrigues	1894 and 1895
184	British Honduras	1895
185	Lagos	,,
186	Basutoland	1895–96
187	Ceylon	1895
188	British Guiana	1895–96
189	Gold Coast	1895
190	Jamaica	1895–96
191	Canada	1895
192	Bermuda	1896
193	Bahamas	,,
194	Zululand	,,
195	Gambia	,,
196	Malta	,,
197	British New Guinea	1895–96
198	Turks and Caicos Islands	1896
199	Barbados	,,
200	Leeward Islands	1895
201	Trinidad and Tobago	1896
202	Gibraltar	,,
203	Fiji (Trade)	,,
204	Straits Settlements	1895
205	Do. do.	1896
206	Falkland Islands	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.

No. 207.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1895 *see* No. 184 of this Series.)

GOVERNOR WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize, 14th July, 1897.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Report on the Blue Book of the Colony of British Honduras for the year 1896, by Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.

D. WILSON, Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1896.

Taxes, Duties, etc.

The only additional tax imposed in 1896 was an export duty of 50 cents a ton on logwood. The loss of revenue which resulted from adding to the free list at the close of 1894, beef, pork, and flour, the insufficiency of ordinary sources of revenue to meet ordinary and current expenditure in 1895, and the necessity of providing additional ways and means to pay the amount charged by the War Department for the presence in the Colony of a detachment of the West India Regiment in December, 1894, and for the first six months of 1895, which had in part been advanced from General Revenue, and to cover the cost of the completion of the Railway Survey to the Western Frontier, led to the passing of Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, imposing an export duty on logwood. The following statement shows the revenue derived from this tax up to the 28th May, 1897, and the manner in which that revenue has been appropriated :—

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1896.

CREDIT.	$	c.	DEBIT.	$	c.
Duty realised in 1896	14,925	00	Advances to Military in 1895.	7,742	90
Duty realised in 1897 up to 28th May.	6,271	00	Expenses of Railway Survey, 1896.	6,296	42
			Compensation paid in 1895 and 1896 for losses by riots.	975	30
			Balance of Debt to War Department paid in 1897.	7,441	49
			Expenses of Railway Survey paid in 1897	1,970	63
	21,196	00		24,426	74

From the foregoing it will be seen that $3,230 74 cents are still wanting to pay off the charges on this special tax. In view, however, of the condition of the logwood industry, and the unremunerative prices realised by recent consignments of logwood, and in view also of the desirability of providing additional sources of revenue of a permanent nature to meet the interest and sinking fund on the loans which it is proposed to raise for the construction of a telegraph line from Belize to the southern frontier of the Colony, and for dredging the bar of the Belize River, and the reclamation of a large area on the north-east side of the town, it was decided to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, and to introduce a Bill to reimpose a duty of $1 a barrel on beef and pork, and 50 cents a barrel on flour. Such a Bill was accordingly introduced on the 28th May, 1897, and, with the unanimous approval of the Legislative Council, became law as Ordinance No. 12 of 1897 on the same day. The reimposition of duty on these articles will add approximately $14,000 a year to the ordinary revenue of the Colony, and thus enable the Government to undertake important services which before were beyond its power.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total General Revenue of the Colony for 1896 amounted to $302,686·25, including $2,066·51 from the sale of lands, $14,925 the proceeds of the export duty of 50 cents a ton on logwood, and $788·32 realised by the sale of certain portions of the equipment of the Railway Survey party. The total general expenditure for 1896 was $269,877·33, including a sum of $7,085·99 for the completion of the Railway Survey to the Western Frontier, $386·45, being further charges in connection with the change of currency to a gold standard, not previously brought to account, and $555·10, for the Belize Town and Harbour Improvements. The General Revenue for 1896 exceeded the Revenue for 1895 by $48,074·12, whilst the expenditure for 1896 was less by $15,084·02 than the expenditure for 1895. The principal sources of revenue in 1896 were :—

Customs	$156,214·71.
Light and Wharf Dues	$ 8,696·55.
Excise	$ 71,979·80.
Court fines, fee of office, etc. ...	$ 22,064·40.
Export duty on logwood	$ 14,925·00.

The revenue and expenditure of the various District Local Funds is given under District Boards.

Assets and Liabilities.

The position of the Colony at the end of 1896 in respect to its Assets and Liabilities is shown in the following table, which also gives the position at the close of the previous year :—

		1895. $	1896. $
GENERAL ACCOUNT ...	Assets	37,845·24	76,755·77
	Liabilities ...	19,083·41	15,979·04
	Excess of Assets	18,761·83	60,776·73
SAVINGS BANK ACCOUNT	Assets	22,307·00	25,333·79
	Liabilities ...	20,998·28	24,118·72
	Excess of Assets	1,308·72	1,215·67
PUBLIC DEBT ACCOUNT	Assets	24,916·18	28,637·19
	Liabilities ...	168,815·00	168,815·00
	Excess of Liabilities ...	143,898·82	140,177·81

It will thus be seen that, whilst the Public Debt Account of the Colony was decreased by $3,721 1c. in 1896, it assets on the General Account were increased by no less than $42,014 90c., and that balance available for the year 1897 was $60,776 73c.

Local Boards.

The policy of the Government has in the main been directed of late years towards decentralization, and considerable attention has been paid to the development of the country districts. In pursuance of this policy the Local Boards, which were of comparatively recent origin, and which were formerly advisory rather than executive bodies, were constituted in 1895 as District Boards, and were granted extensive powers in all matters of a municipal nature by Ordinance 30 of 1894. The District Boards also became the Local Road Boards and Local Boards of Health, and their powers are limited only by the amount voted annually by the Legislature, which amount represents, as a fact, the total revenue estimated to be derived during the year from the following sources:—property tax, licences on dogs, horses, mules, asses, carriages, drays, and drivers, market rents, and slaughter house fees, liquor licences, and cemetery fees. In the Belize district there are a few additional sources of revenue including, in the capital itself, a fire rate, at present fixed at 1 °/o on annual value. Each district frames its own estimates of revenue and expenditure, and such estimates, when passed by the Legislative Council, form the basis of its disbursements during the year. The members of the District Board are taken from the most representative men of the district, and in the country districts the commissioner is ex-officio chairman, but the chairman of the Belize District Board is the Colonial Secretary. Not only are the District Boards of great value in matters relating to their own districts, but they are often in a position to afford the Government useful information regarding questions which closely concern the whole Colony. In a measure the District Boards may be viewed as taking the place of representatives of the districts, and their existence has, in part, if not altogether, removed the want that may have been felt in certain quarters for an elected element in the Legislative Council.

The following statement shows the revenue and expenditure of the several districts for the years 1895 and 1896, and the amount standing to the credit of each district local fund at the end of 1896:—

District.	Revenue.		Expenditure.		Balance to credit at at end of 1896.
	1895.	1896.	1895.	1896.	
	$	$	$	$	$
Belize	21,491·82	23,088·39	19.015·62	22,335·82	4,669·57
Corosal	4,159·92	3,717 70	3,924·40	4,482·10	698·21
Orange Walk	3,195·07	3,199·68	1,999·73	2,568·98	2,162·40
Stann Creek	1,451·96	1,276·79	1,400·34	1,712·99	153·67
Toledo	697·06	739·22	602·65	698·55	716·82
The Cayo	700·00	754·25	499·40	388·42	616·43
Total	31,695·83	32,776·03	27,442·14	32,186·86	9,047·10

Legislation.

Only five ordinances were added to the Statute Book in 1896, and of these Ordinances, Nos. 1 and 5 need alone be noticed. The former imposed a duty of 50 cents on each ton of logwood exported, whilst the latter appropriated the revenue so raised for the specific purpose of paying the cost of completing a survey for a railway from Belize to the Western Frontier, reference to which is made under the heading "Railways, Canals, and Roads," of discharging the debt to the War Department that the Colony incurred by a detachment of the West India Regiment being stationed in Belize during the latter part of December, 1894, and the first six months of 1895, and of making compensation to those who suffered losses owing to the riot of the 16th December, 1894. It was intended, and the law so provided, that the cost of dredging the bar of the Belize river should also be defrayed from the proceeds of the logwood tax, but the extension of this scheme, by which it is now proposed to reclaim from the sea a large tract of land on the north-east side of the town of Belize, and the considerable fall in the price of logwood, rendered it desirable to repeal Ordinance No. 1 of 1896, and this has accordingly been done. Under "Taxes, Duties, &c.," further reference has been made to this logwood tax, and to the revenue that was raised therefrom.

Pensions.

Retiring allowances and gratuities are regulated not by local law, but by the Imperial Pension Act, 22 Vict. c. 26, and the pensions for which the Colony was liable at the end of 1896, amounted to $5,543·57, showing a decrease, owing to the death of two pensioners, of $411·60 on the total payment for allowancees and gratuities in 1895.

Population, Vital Statistics, and Public Health.

According to the returns furnished by the Acting Registrar General, the total population of the Colony on the 31st December was 33,811, or 2,340 more than the number established by the census of 1891. The total white population is given as 453 and the total coloured population as 33,358. The ratio of population to the square mile for each of the six districts is as follows:— Belize, 7·18, Corosal, 7·14, Orange Walk, 3·50, Stann Creek, 2·28, Toledo, 4·35, and the Cayo, 3·65, giving a total of 4·47 per square mile for the whole Colony.

The following tables give the number of persons employed in agriculture, manufacture, and commerce in the different districts, and the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last six years:—

District.	Agriculture.	Manufacture.	Commerce.
Belize	361	56	681
Corosal	746	46	84
Orange Walk	200	40	84
Stann Creek	901	9	97
Toledo	723	5	60
The Cayo	222	9	18

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1891	1,372	43·60	379	1,242	39·46
1892	1,219	38·73	372	1,282	40·73
1893	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66
1894	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893

In the foregoing tables the most satisfactory feature is the decrease in the death-rate, which is the lowest recorded in the past six years. With reference to this decrease the Colonial Surgeon, in his Annual Report for 1896, under the heading "Public Health," makes the following statement :—" This " diminution is all the more interesting as it occurs chiefly in " that class of affections returned as fever ; the total death- " rate from dysentery also is the lowest yet recorded, being 1·799 " per thousand. Corosal still maintains its unenviable pre- " eminence of affording the largest death-rate. During 1896 the " death-rate in this district has been 42·480 per thousand. Not " only is this the highest for the year, but, in detail, this district " furnishes the highest mortality from preventable causes, *e.g.*, " dysentery, 4·832, intestinal affections, 3·221, nervous diseases, " chiefly returned as 'fits,' and convulsions, 7·046 per thousand."

Ecclesiastical.

The Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian bodies are represented in the Colony, and the number of churches or chapels belonging to each denomination is given by districts in the following table :—

District.	Wesleyan.	Roman Catholic.	Baptist.	Church of England.	Presbyterian.
Belize	5	5	9	8	1
Corosal...	3	10	—	2	—
Orange Walk	1	13	—	7	—
Stann Creek	5	4	—	7	—
Toledo	2	5	—	2	—
The Cayo	—	9	—	—	—
Total... ...	16	46	9	26	1

In the foregoing list are included many buildings that it would be difficult to recognise as either churches or chapels, but by courtesy they are included in the list, seeing that religious services are held therein. Some are merely huts with mud walls and floors, and thatched roofs, which serve during week-days as schoolrooms. Whatever, notwithstanding, the nature of the buildings may be, great self-sacrifice and devotion are displayed by the ministers of the different denominations in making provision for the spiritual wants of the people.

None of the religious bodies receive assistance in any form from public funds.

Education.

The control of primary education in the Colony is vested by Ordinance 25 of 1892, and Regulations framed thereunder, in a Board of Education composed of the members of the Executive Council and five other gentlemen nominated by the Governor. Of this Board, which has been in existence since January, 1894, the Governor is the President, whilst the nominated members are representatives of the five religious bodies, namely, the Church of England, the Roman Catholic, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian. Though it was thought at the time of the constitution of the new Board of Education, and, indeed, was more than once stated at meetings of the Board itself, that the system of primary education laid down by the Regulations framed under Ordinance 25 of 1892, was in advance of the requirements of the Colony, the experience of the last three years of the working of the code has proved that primary education has distinctly improved since the introduction of the new system, and that greater attention has been drawn to the question of education than existed before. The drawbacks

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1896.

pointed out in my report for 1893 as operative then still sensibly affect the progress of education. These drawbacks are briefly, multiplicity of languages among school-going children, want of proper roads, causing difficulty of communication, the scattered nature of population, the impossibility of establishing schools in logwood and mahogany settlements, where many children necessarily are, absence of any regular system of training teachers, and lastly, the difficulty of retaining for any time the services of good teachers owing to the relatively small salaries which managers of schools can afford to pay. But notwithstanding these difficulties, much good work has been, and is being, done in the cause of education, and this Colony is deeply indebted to the heads of the various religious bodies for the zealous and maintained efforts put forth by them to meet its educational requirements.

Considering the extent of its revenue, liberal provision is made for grants for attendance, for bonuses to teachers, for needlework grants, and for the payment of pupil teachers by the Legislative Council in the Annual Estimates, and this sum is distributed monthly, with the exception of bonuses to teachers, which are paid at the end of the year, by the Board of Education on returns rendered monthly by the various managers to the Inspector of Schools. The money so authorised by the Board of Education to be paid as Grants in aid in 1896 amounted to $13,367·56, or $132·44 less than the provision made by the Legislative Council. In 1895 the total grants amounted to only $11,136·06; but a large over-payment on account of the Grants for 1894 had been sanctioned by the Legislative Council on condition that a proportionate reduction was made in the amount to be placed at the disposal of the Board of Education for 1895. The following comparative tables for the last three years furnish details as to the number of schools in existence during that period, the denominations to which they belonged, the attendance thereat, the grants earned, the school fees collected, and the voluntary contributions made:—

A.

Year.	No. of Schools	No. of children on Register.	Average daily attendance.	Percentage of average attendance to number on Register.	Average School Days.
1894	44	3,223	2,252	69·90	190
1895	54	3,802	2,694	70·85	166
1896	46	3,567	2,592	72·66	183

B.

Denomination.	Number of Schools.			*Government Grant.			*School Fees.			*Voluntary Contributions.		
	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1894.	1895.	1896.
				$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England.	8	11	11	1,280	1,919	2,631	227	669	828	830	1,452	2,893
Roman Catholic	18	21	18	3,854	4,654	5,256	371	775	987	611	1,193	2,733
Wesleyan ...	11	11	12	2,572	3,197	4,006	406	816	894	873	4,262	3,779
Baptist	6	7	4	930	1,182	1,239	89	188	205	280	1,084	1,063
Non-Denominational.	1	1	1	122	181	233	44	64	85	22	114	222

* Cents are not given.

From the above table, marked B, it will be seen that, whilst there has been an increase in the total Government grants earned by the Schools of each denomination, there has been a corresponding increase in the school fees collected, and in voluntary contributions, in every instance except as regards the latter, in the case of the Wesleyan and Baptist schools, the amounts contributed for 1896 falling slightly short of those given in 1895. The increase in the amount of school fees collected may be partly attributed to the wholesome rule laid down by the Board of Education, that in town schools the proportion of fees to the Government Grant must be one-fourth, and in country schools one-sixth, otherwise a reduction in the monthly grant awardable would be made.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $100,000, and is made up as follows:—

94,500 pieces	@ 50 cents	... ...	$47,250
135,000 ,,	@ 25 ,,	.. ...	$33,750
126,000 ,,	@ 10 ,,	... ...	$12,600
128,000 ,,	@ 5 ,,	.. ...	$6,400
Total 483,500 pieces.		Total	$100,000

There is also a bronze 1 cent piece, of which 137,000 are in circulation, with a reserve of 35,000 pieces in the Treasury strong room.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894, currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The value of notes now in circulation is $114,903, and, against the notes issued, the Commissioners of Currency hold in the Colony $83,935, $30,968 having been remitted for investment in England in accordance with the provisions of the law.

The present currency, which was inaugurated on the 15th October, 1894, has, at the time of writing, been in force for just two years and three quarters, and has unquestionably proved a boon to the community as a whole. The profits of exporters and of the principal mercantile houses are not so large as they were before the change of the currency, but wealth is now more equally distributed. The price of labour has increased, whilst the price of commodities has decreased. Competition, due to increased facilities afforded by the change in the currency for the purchase of articles outside the Colony, has become an important factor in trade, and the speculation in commerce which previously existed, and which was due to a currency of varying value, is now a thing of the past.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the years 1895 and 1896. A comparison with previous years would be misleading, as, up to the 15th October, 1894, their value was expressed in sols.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895	427,802	3,237	751,575	271,026	1,453,640
1896	523.208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895	586.841	18	331,040	366,099	1,283.998
1896	760,522	—	312,997	498,011	1,571,530

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The most important features of the foregoing tables are the increase by nearly $100,000 in the total exports of the Colony for 1896 as compared with 1895, and the considerable increase in the value of imports from, and exports to, the United Kingdom. After the United Kingdom, France was the country which received the largest amount of exports from the Colony, their value amounting to $413,920, or a little over $100,000 more than the value of the exports to the United States. Below are given the principal imports and exports for the years 1895 and 1896, and their value.

IMPORTS.

Articles.	1895.	1896.
	$	$
Bacon and Ham	14,951	11,713
Boots and Shoes	42,113	54,879
Butter	19,563	15,420
Clothing	33,939	50,207
Cotton Goods	138,752	218,062
Drugs	13,139	19,610
Earthen and glassware	14,083	18,709
Hardware and Cutlery	44,757	60,361
Hats	13,724	13,856
Provisions...	87,259	110,698
Woollen Goods	24,236	16,067
Beer, Porter, &c.	19,109	20,071
Cigars	9,284	11,199
Coffee	9,964	20,921
Lumber (dressed)	9,401	17,433
Lumber (rough)	10,985	16,200
Oils (mineral)	11,096	16,497
Soap	28,748	23,497
Spirits	20,305	16,588
Tobacco	18,144	9,478
Wines, still	10,729	13,054

On the above-mentioned articles duty, either rated, or 10 per cent. *ad valorem*, is paid.

Articles.	1895.	1896.
Animals	59,360	68,311
Beef and Pork	61,774	57,976
Bullion and Coin	175,947	107,062
Fish (salted)	6,274	6,227
Flour	76,231	67,649
Indian Corn	14,862	17,576
Logwood (tons 6,739)	188,822	( ) 1,634
Rice...	25,435	18,663

On the above-mentioned articles no duty was levied in 1896.

EXPORTS.

Articles.	Quantity.	1895.	Quantity.	1896.
Bananas	Bunches. 454,316	\$ 93,070	Bunches. 414,398	\$ 94,868
Bullion and Coin ...	—	171,863	—	77,371
Cedar	feet. 62,965	2,600	feet. 33,639	1,873
Cocoanuts	1,440,816	14,578	1,707,041	16,770
Coffee	lbs. 16,412	2,553	lbs. 11,447	2,338
Logwood	tons. 30,830·2½	699,525	tons. 34,539	896,565
Mahogany	feet. 2,868,346	151,290	feet. 2,769,676	186,682
Oranges	brls. 376¾	653	brls. 488¾	944
Pine apples	8,846	286	504	14
Plantains	1,044,020	5,232	985,325	9,685
Rubber	lbs. 17,381	6,878	lbs. 19,895	5,979
Sapodilla gum	lbs. 13,254½	4,007	lbs. 7,437	1,932
Sponges	lbs. 8,265	2,643	lbs. 19,219	4,906
Tortoise Shell	lbs. 4,174½	18,957	lbs. 3,203	15,055

Adopting the classification recommended in the report of the Committee on Import and Export Statistics in the Colonies, the following is a summary of the total import and export trade of the Colony for the year 1896.

Classes.	Imports.	Exports.		
		Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
	$	$	$	$
I. LIVE ANIMALS, FOOD, DRINK, AND NARCOTICS.	553,637	124,572	33,838	158,410
II. RAW MATERIALS:				
1. Textile	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
2. Metal	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
3. Other	42,617	949,147	166,027	1,115,174
III. MANUFACTURED MATERIALS:				
1. Textile	530,324	Nil.	17,783	17,783
2. Metal	37,017	Nil.	3,746	3,746
3. Other	191,420	Nil.	6,117	6,117
IV. COIN, BULLION, AND SPECIE OF ALL KINDS.	107,622	Nil.	77,371	77,371
Total	1,462,637	1,073,719	304,882	1,378,601

Shipping.

There was a slight increase in the total number of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared in 1896 as compared with 1895, though there was a decrease in the number and tonnage of sailing vessels entered. The following tables give the number of sailing vessels and steamers entered and cleared during the past four years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively :—

ENTERED.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	379	30,935	144	107,941
1894	414	33,586	186	121,188
1895	397	40,102	182	121,368
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317

CLEARED.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	360	34,198	146	110,231
1894	367	34,846	186	119,709
1895	367	32,203	182	121,513
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239

Sailing Vessels.

ENTERED.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	177	8,817	19	988	42	15,318
1894	188	9,127	10	308	40	14,880
1895	162	8,260	25	351	57	21,396
1896	181	9,289	19	873	47	16,597

Sailing Vessels.

CLEARED.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	163	9,543	16	921	45	16,660
1894	151	9,014	8	282	43	16,233
1895	160	7,620	21	343	46	16,853
1896	167	8,571	19	775	51	18,992

Steamers Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	35	40,875	99	62,241	10	4,825
1894	31	34,843	101	62,972	38	11,994
1895	21	24,911	105	65,617	34	11,323
1896	42	48,362	103	65,842	36	15,172

Steamers Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1893	37	43,174	101	63,063	8	3,994
1894	36	36,274	100	62,462	39	12,207
1895	28	34,579	108	65,836	34	13,047
1896	41	48,413	103	65,742	36	15,143

The number and tonnage of sailing vessels and steamers belonging to other nationalities have not been given, as they are for the most part unimportant, and their comparison would serve no useful purpose. A large coasting trade with this

Colony is, however, done by small Honduranean vessels, as will be seen from the following tables, giving the number entered and cleared during the past four years.

ENTERED.

1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
93	1,800	115	1,958	108	1,952	112	2,440

CLEARED.

1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.	
No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
90	1,706	108	1,853	102	1,927	103	2,377

Grants of land, and Agricultural Statistics.

The following table gives the number of grants of Crown Land, and the total number of acres granted from 1894 to 1896 :—

Year.	No. of grants.	Total acreage granted.
1894	37	1,431½
1895	24	2,871½
1896	25	922½

The total number of acres granted in the colony is about 3,081,970, and there remain ungranted about 1,757,438 acres, much of which, though admirably adapted for agricultural purposes, is difficult of access, rendering the construction of pole roads essential before the land can be profitably taken up and placed under cultivation.

The estimated acreage of the colony is 4,839,408 acres, of which 52,600 acres are returned as being under cultivation, and 4,571,270 as uncultivated. The usual sale price of Crown Land for agricultural purposes is $1 an acre, whilst land can be rented at 15 cents an acre, but these rates may be increased or reduced as circumstances seem to justify. To persons who are prepared to

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comply with such special conditions as the Governor-in-Council may determine in each case, as, for example, the survey of the land, if unsurveyed, fencing the land in a permanent manner, bringing a portion of the area into cultivation within a given time, expending capital in the erection of machinery or buildings or in any other manner calculated to develop or promote the resources or industries of the Colony, land can be sold or leased at practically nominal prices.

The following table gives the revenue derived by the Land Department for the years 1895 and 1896 :—

Year.	Sale of Crown Land	Rent of Crown Land.	Timber Licenses.	Fines and Seizures under timber licenses.
1895	2,115·66	2,968·63	4,252·18	—
1895	2,066·54	4,194·30	6,745·14	1,024·48

The amount appearing under the heading "Fines and seizures under timber licenses" represents the fines imposed on certain persons cutting logwood or mahogany in excess of the quantity authorised by the Government, and on others for cutting without any authority at all. That such illegal cutting was detected in 1896 was due to the appointment of an Inspector of Licenses under the direct authority of the Surveyor General, an appointment which has been fully justified by the results obtained. In addition to the fines collected, the Government has now a claim of $12,926·10 for illegal cutting, which will shortly be decided in the Supreme Court.

Manufactures, Mines, and Fisheries.

The following table gives, by districts, the various mills and stills in operation at the end of 1896 :—

District.	Steam Sugar Mills.	Cattle Sugar Mills.	Stills.	Saw Mills.	Coffee Mills.
Corosal	2	14	13	—	—
Orange Walk	1	6	4	—	—
Stann Creek	—	—	—	2	—
Toledo	4	8	1	—	—
The Cayo	—	9	2	—	1
Total	7	37	20	2	1

There are also in the Corosal District 2 stills at present not in operation, in the Stann Creek District 3 abandoned steam mills and one abandoned saw mill, and in the Toledo District 2 abandoned saw mills. At Stann Creek, the capital of the District of the same name, there are at work a banana evaporator and small mill.

Sugar is manufactured almost entirely for home consumption, and, were it not for the import duty of 1½ cents per lb. on unrefined sugar and 2 cents per lb. on refined sugar, all the sugar mills in the Colony, with the exception possibly of those in the Cayo District, would be closed. The heavy cost of transport to the Cayo from Belize practically acts as an additional protective duty on sugar produced in that district.

With regard to timber for building purposes I can only repeat what I stated in my report for 1893. "The Colony, instead of importing timber for building purposes, should be able to supply all that is required in that direction." Woods of all kinds, admirably adapted for building and for furniture, exist in almost unlimited quantities in every district of the Colony, and only capital is wanted to enable British Honduras to supply foreign markets, after satisfying home requirements, with timber which would command a ready sale. But as it is, nearly all the timber used in wooden buildings in the Colony is imported from the United States, and as has been mentioned above, one saw mill in the Stann Creek District, and two in the Toledo District have been abandoned, though whether this is due to want of proper machinery, to imperfect knowledge of the business, or to lack of capital, it would be hard to say. It was for some time hoped that valuable minerals would be found in the vicinity of the Cockscomb Mountains in sufficient quantities to enable them to be worked at a fair profit, but so far the reports of experts on the specimens sent home for assay have not been favourable, and, though undoubtedly gold exists, it has not yet been found in such quantity as would justify mining operations.

The attempt to develop the sponge industry in the waters of the Colony, which it was hoped would prove successful if undertaken by anyone who thoroughly understood the business, and possessed sufficient capital to work it, has disappointed the expectations formed, and after a trial of two years by an expert with proper apparatus, the undertaking has been abandoned.

Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during the year 1896 was 2,231, against 2,248 in 1895, and 2,065 in 1894, whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was, in 1896 1,521, in 1895 1,462, and 1894 1,320.

In the Supreme Court, out of 74 informations 55 judgments for the Crown were given in 1896, as compared with 35 judgments out of 87 informations in 1895, and 39 judgments out of 67 informations in 1894. There are no trials on indictments and no bills, as no grand jury exists. The Attorney General merely files an information, and, when he thinks proper, enters a *nolle prosequi*.

Gaols and Prisoners.

The Blue Book Reports for 1891, 1892, and 1893 dealt fully of the gaols of the Colony, and it is unnecessary to repeat the remarks made therein. The present system of Prison Administration appears to be the best that the present circumstances of the Colony admit of. The prison in Belize may be regarded as the Central Prison, in which all prisoners sentenced to more than three months imprisonment are confined. In each of the Capitals of the districts other than in Belize there is a small gaol under the direct orders of the Commissioner, but which is visited from time to time by the keeper of the Belize Prison, who reports on its condition and who makes such recommendations thereon as he may consider desirable. Flogging is never used as a punishment in the District Prisons, and is only resorted to in Belize in cases of gross and repeated insubordination, of assaults on warders or prisoners, and of attempted escapes. There were only three cases of flogging in 1896.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Goal from 1892 to 1896:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average number in Belize Gaol.
1892	371	45·70
1893	395	48·76
1894	369	52·04
1895	428	54·21
1896	568	77·61

Hospitals, Lunatic Asylum, and Poor House.

In my report for the Blue Book for 1893 I referred at some length to the Medical Institutions of the Colony, and to the hospitals then existing must now be added the one established at the end of 1895 at Punta Gorda, the capital of the Toledo District, which holds four beds, and is sufficient for present requirements.

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The following table shews the number of patients under treatment at all the Institutions during 1896 :—

	Institution.	Remained at beginning of 1896.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1897.	Average daily.
Hospitals.	Belize	18	264	238	31	10	13·24
	Corosal	8	179	177	15	10	9·29
	Orange Walk	7	128	123	10	2	3·66
	Punta Gorda	—	43	41	2	—	1·01
Belize.	Lunatic Asylum	28	12	10	2	28	26·42
	Poor House	15	11	4	9	13	13·01

The Medical Department is now fully manned, provision having been made for the appointment of an Assistant Colonial Surgeon to every district of the Colony, and of a supernumerary Assistant Colonial Surgeon to replace any officer on leave, and to perform such extra services as may be required in outlying districts. At the head of the Department is the Colonial Surgeon, who no longer enjoys the right of private practice, and is, therefore, available to visit the country districts from time to time, and to inspect the Government Institutions therein. In the Districts of Toledo, Stann Creek, and the Cayo, the duties of District Commissioner will continue to be performed by the Assistant Colonial Surgeon, the medical duties being subordinate to those of an executive and judicial nature, but in the Orange Walk District, which has increased in importance of late years, the dual appointment will not be continued. It is proposed, as soon as circumstances admit, to establish small hospitals at Stann Creek and the Cayo, the capital towns of the districts of the same names.

The Orange Walk Hospital, the opening of which was referred to in my report for 1893, and the destruction of which by fire was recorded in the report for 1894, has now been rebuilt on a more convenient site, and on a better plan. This building was, however, only opened at the beginning of this year, and a small hired house served during 1896, as it had done during 1895, as a hospital. The arrangements for the nursing of patients in the Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk Hospitals has now been placed on a satisfactory basis. The system of training natives of the Colony to act as nurses, initiated by Miss Beresford, who came out from England in June, 1894, to act as head nurse of the Belize Hospital, and who left in October of the year following owing to ill-health, has been successfully continued, and, in addition to trained nurses at the Belize, Corosal, and Orange Walk Hospitals, there are nurses in training at the first-named hospital, who receive regular instruction from the Assistant Colonial Surgeon in charge of the Institution.

Meteorological Observations.

According to the observations taken at the meteorological station at Belize, the maximum shade temperature in 1896 was 94·6 in September, 93·2 in October, 92·4 in June, 91·2 in November, and 91·0 in August, and 90·2 in July, whilst the minimum temperature recorded was 59·0 in February, 59·8 in January, 62·0 in March, and 63·0 in December.

The total rainfall for the year was 73·98, and rain fell on 100 days. The greatest rainfall occurred in November, with a total of 17·48 inches, and the least rain fell in February, the amount being only 0·50 inches, or 2·49 inches less than the average for that month for the fourteen years previous.

The following table gives the total rainfall, and the number of days on which rain fell during the last seven years :—

Year.	Total Rainfall, inches.	No. of days rain.
1890	74·31	124
1891	66·82	115
1892	72·64	119
1893	51·26	109
1894 May to December.	63·95	97
1895	91·06	125
1896	73·98	100

Speaking generally, the rainiest months are June to November, and the driest December to April, though heavy rains often fall in December and January.

Government House.

The much needed extensive repairs to Government House, to which reference was made in the Blue Book Reports for 1892 and 1893, have at last been completed, $2,500 having been spent thereon in 1895, and a similar sum at the beginning of the present year. The outhouses, stables, and coach house, and fence round the grounds are now in a creditable condition, and new Private Secretary's quarters, to contain an office for the Governor, are being erected to the south of Government House, and when finished will be both comfortable and convenient. The old quarters, which are unfit for habitation, will then be pulled down, to the considerable improvement of the appearance of the grounds.

Roads, Railways, etc.

The difficulties in the construction of roads were referred to in my report on the Blue Book for 1893, and I then stated that until population and wealth increased, and the country was more opened up, the rivers and sea must continue to be the principal highways of communication. In river communication British Honduras is exceptionally fortunate, and the absence of roads in the sense understood in England is not so keenly felt as it would otherwise be. With a total population for the whole Colony per square mile of only 4·47, and with a greater part of the country covered either by primeval forest or bush, it is manifest that, except in the immediate neighbourhood of centres of population, proper roads are out of the question. What is possible in each district in the way of keeping clear truck paths and bridle paths between the different villages, and in bridging the small creeks, which, during the rainy season of the year, are apt to become swollen torrents, is done, but when it is stated that a road cleared in one year along its whole length to a width of forty feet will become the year following overgrown by bush, and obstructed by fallen trees, it will be seen how difficult a task the Colony is set in endeavouring to open, and to maintain when opened, road communication between the various districts. Much good work, however, has been, and is being, done by the District Boards in their capacity as Road Boards, and considerable sums are annually spent by them on road service. At present the clearing of roads is generally done by contract, but it is a question whether a more efficient system would not be the employment of hired gangs of men in each district working under the directions of the District Road Board, assisted by the advice of a competent officer as road surveyor, with experience of the work of making roads in a country like British Honduras. Probably the only objection to such a system would be the question of expense, and, considering the sparsity of population, it is doubtful whether such expense would be justified. It is probably to a railway that the Colony must look for the opening up of its rich lands in the interior. But here again the heavy expense that would be entailed by the construction and working of a line of Railway, and the uncertainty as to the returns to be derived therefrom, render it doubtful whether the Government should itself undertake such a service. The completion of the Railway survey from Belize to the Western Frontier which took place in 1896, has proved that a railway can comparatively easily be constructed; but the estimate, given in the appendix to Mr. Shelford's Report, of the cost of a Railway to the extreme limit of the Western Frontier facing the country of Guatemala, complete and ready for traffic, with a pier at Belize extending into 24 feet of water, is no less than £734,663. Assuming, however, that this is an unnecessarily liberal estimate, and that the total cost will not exceed £500,000, the interest and sinking fund on a loan for such a sum would practically mean an annual charge, until redemption, of just £25,000, a sum equivalent to about two-fifths of the present revenue of the Colony. It is not unlikely that the Government of Guatemala, with the view to developing the rich Province of Peten, which is said to be inaccessible to any railway system save on the British Honduras side, might be induced to construct a line through Peten, if a line were completed from the Western Frontier to Belize, and such an arrangement would be to the mutual advantage of both countries.

Post and Telegraph.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1896 was $6,492·15, and the total expenditure, $17,117·34 ; this latter sum including $6,525·51 for salaries and wages, and for all expenses of the Postal Service within the Colony, and $10,591·83 for the conveyance of mails beyond the Colony. The number of letters and other articles sent to, and received from, abroad from 1893 to 1896 was as follows :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Ordinary letters	79,985	86,932	105,425	120,445
Registered letters	2,897	2,893	3,797	4,109
Post cards	1,810	2,425	2,144	3,145
Newspapers, books, etc.	61,078	61,125	67,819	83,592
Postal parcels	579	597	772	1,228

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table :—

	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Letters	35,507	40,638	36,187	52,835
Post Cards	—	—	—	—
Newspapers, books, and parcels ...	7,502	8,780	7,311	11,174

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1894 to 1896 were as follows :—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, etc.

1894	£695 13 3
1895	£823 7 6
1896	£881 1 5

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1896.

Money Orders drawn on the Colony,

1894	... ...	£103	12	7
1895	... ...	£174	12	6
1896	... ...	£265	19	8

The foregoing tables show that there has been a marked increase in the Post Office business during the past four years. The growth in the postal parcel service may be ascribed to the greater facilities which exist for the conveyance of parcels by direct steamers between New York and Belize, whilst the steamers of the Liverpool Harrison Line, which call about once in five weeks, also carry the parcel post when they can be utilised with advantage. Arrangements are now in force for the interchange of money orders between Belize and Jamaica, Barbados, and Grenada, and it is hoped that in time the system will be extended to all the other West Indian Colonies. The question of establishing a money order system with the United States is engaging the attention of the Home Authorities, and there is every reason to anticipate that the necessary formalities will soon be completed. Hitherto the Post Office Department has been directed by the Treasurer and Collector, but its increased work and importance have necessitated the creation of a separate department under a Postmaster, who will also be at the head of the Telegraph Department when such is established. Provision has been made for the creation of a new Post Office, the present room being too small for the requirements of the service. There is at last a definite prospect of British Honduras being placed in direct telegraphic communication with the outside world. The Government of Guatemala has expressed its willingness to extend its telegraph system from Livingston to the Southern Frontier of the Colony so soon as the Colony begins to construct a line from that frontier to Belize. A competent telegraph engineer will shortly visit the Colony to survey the proposed line for a telegraph from Belize to the River Sarstoon, and to furnish an estimate of the cost of the undertaking and of the annual charge for upkeep, and, should the amount prove to be within the financial capacity of the Colony, the work will be begun with as little delay as possible, and the cost defrayed by a loan. The carrying out of this scheme is not only desirable as bringing British Honduras into telegraphic communication with the United Kingdom and elsewhere, but as establishing a telegraph system between Belize and the important fruit ports in the two southern districts of the Colony.

E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT,

8th July, 1897.

Colonial Secretary.

No. 242.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 207.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
October 1898.

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ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
213	St. Helena	1896
214	Seychelles	„
215	Mauritius	„
216	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1897
217	Fiji	1896
218	Ceylon	„
219	Lagos	„
220	Gold Coast	„
221	Labuan	„
222	British Guiana	1896-97
223	Rodrigues	1896
224	Basutoland	1896-97
225	Jamaica	„
226	Bechuanaland Protectorate	„
227	Leeward Islands	1896
228	Bermuda	1897
229	Gambia	„
230	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
231	Barbados	„
232	Lagos	„
233	St. Vincent	„
234	Sierra Leone	„
235	Falkland Islands	„
236	Straits Settlements	„
237	British New Guinea	1896-97
238	Bahamas	1897
239	St. Lucia	„
240	St. Helena	„
241	Trinidad and Tobago	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.

No. 242.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

BRITISH HONDURAS 1897.

(For Report for 1896, *see* No. 207.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR NEWTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize,
22nd August, 1898.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Blue Book for 1897, together with the Report thereon by Mr. W. J. McKinney, C.M.G., the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

F. J. NEWTON,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TAXES, DUTIES, &C.

As stated in the Report for 1896 the import duty on beef, pork, and flour was reimposed in 1897—beef and pork at $1 per barrel and flour at 50 cents per barrel—and the export duty on logwood was abolished. The duty on still wines was fixed at the uniform rate of 50 cents per gallon, instead of claret wine at 50 cents and other still wines at $1 per gallon.

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1897.

General Revenue and Expenditure.

The total ordinary revenue amounted to $292,454.06, being $9,543.87 in excess of that of 1896. In addition to the ordinary revenue a sum of $20,000 was received in silver coins from the Mint and a sum of $1,663.61 as casual revenue (vacant estates).

The principal items of revenue were—

	$
Customs	166,618.56
Light and wharf dues	8,544.35
Internal taxation	67,942.42
Revenues of Government property ...	15,377.22
Court fines, fees of office, &c.... ...	17,921.00

The total ordinary expenditure amounted to $294,791.63, the excess over 1896 being $35,670.34. The expenditure included—

	$
Constabulary	43,617.93
Police	24,569.59
Naval and military	15,228.14
Public health and hospitals	26,281.63

In addition to the ordinary expenditure there was an extraordinary expenditure of $28,198.78 made up as follows :—

	$
Public works	10,707.25
Completion of railway survey	3,385.16
Telegraph survey	729.69
Cost of bullion for coinage	9,766.81
Belize Town and Harbour improvements	3,609.87

The revenue and expenditure of the several District Boards were as follows :—

District.	Revenue.		Expenditure.	
	1896.	1897.	1896.	1897.
	$	$	$	$
Belize	23,088.29	22,901.70	22,335.82	22,534.50
Corosal	2,717.70	3,657.09	4,482.10	3,636.02
Orange Walk ...	3,199.68	3,492.25	2,568.98	3,340.34
Stann Creek ...	1,276.79	2,173.17	1,712.99	1,735.33
Toledo	739.22	699.33	698.55	910.83
Cayo	754.25	752.75	388.42	679.45

BRITISH HONDURAS.
1897.

LEGISLATION.

Forty-five ordinances were passed during the year, twenty-two of which were amending ordinances and eight appropriation ordinances.

No. 32 provides for the licensing of certain trades and businesses in Belize, and No. 38 for the constitution of a volunteer force.

CIVIL ESTABLISHMENT.

Governor Sir A. Moloney, K.C.M.G., left the Colony in January on promotion to the Government of the Windward Islands, and Colonel D. Wilson, C.M.G., arrived in the Colony in February and assumed the Government.

EDUCATION.

The number of schools in operation receiving Government aid was 49, as compared with 46 in 1896 and 51 in 1895. Total number on the rolls 3,683 as against 3,567 in 1896; the average daily attendance was 2,705 as compared with 2,592 in 1896. The total Government expenditure on aided schools amounted to $14,416.76.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The total value of the imports in 1897 was $1,422,097.00 as compared with $1,462,637 in 1896. From the United Kingdom, 1897, $486,463 as against $523,208 in 1896. From the United States $761,768 as compared with $790,458 in 1896.

The total value of the exports was $1,404,387 against $1,571,530 in 1896. Exports to the United Kingdom $769,867, and in 1896 $760,522. To the United States $238,187 against $312,997 in 1896.

The exports included—

6,777,382	feet of mahogany.
29,682	tons of logwood.
356,852	bunches of bananas.
1,824,522	coconuts.

BRITISH HONDURAS. 1897.

SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1897 as compared with 1896 :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081

POST OFFICE.

During the year the Post Office, which previously formed part of the Treasury, was created a separate Department with a Postmaster at $1,500 per annum.

The total revenue for 1897 was $6,575.54 as compared with $6,492.15 in 1896, and the total expenditure, including $6,000 for conveyance of mails within the Colony and $14,124.96 for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony, amounted to $22,387.12.

The total number of articles dealt with to and from abroad was 239,878, and inland 58,502.

The money order transactions were as follows :—

Issued in Colony.	Paid in Colony.	—
£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*	
1,043 15 4	331 1 0	United Kingdom.
226 18 4	23 5 10	Jamaica.
25 13 8	4 8 4	Barbados.
3 2 6	... ...	British Guiana.

Early in the year the agreement for a weekly mail service between Belize and New Orleans was renewed for a further period of 5 years at an annual subsidy of $14,500.

W. J. McKinney,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

9th August 1898.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 278.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 242.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
November 1899.

LONDON:
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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained for a few pence from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
251	British Solomon Islands	1897–98
252	Seychelles	1897
253	Labuan	"
254	Ceylon	"
255	Basutoland	1897–98
256	Newfoundland...	1896–97
257	Cocos-Keeling and Christmas Islands ...	1898
258	British New Guinea	1897–98
259	Bermuda	1898
260	Niger.—West African Frontier Force ...	1897–98
261	Jamaica	"
262	Barbados	1898
263	Falkland Islands	"
264	Gambia	"
265	St. Helena	"
266	Leeward Islands	"
267	St. Lucia	"
268	Fiji	"
269	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
270	Malta	"
271	Gold Coast	"
272	Trinidad	"
273	Sierra Leone	"
274	Ceylon	"
275	British Solomon Islands	1898–99
276	Gibraltar...	1898
277	Bahamas...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast...	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.

No. 278.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

British Honduras,
1898.

(For Report for 1897, *see* No. 242.)

GOVERNOR SIR D. WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Belize,
31st August 1899.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you six copies of the Blue Book for 1898, together with the report thereon of Mr. F. J. Newton, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

D. WILSON,
Governor.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements shew the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years 1897 and 1898, under each head of revenue and service respectively :—

Revenue.

—	1897.	1898.
	$	$
1. Customs	166,618.56	145,017.18
2. Light and Wharf Dues	8,544.35	6,826.35
3. Internal Taxation	67,942.42	62,464.73
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	15,377.22	16,616.55
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, &c. ...	17,921.00	20,937.69
6. Post Office	6,575.54	6,631.68
7. Interest	1,810.21	2,022.12
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	1,680.98	2,320.51
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,914.71	6,311.55
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	288,384.99	269,148.36
10. Sale of Crown Lands	3,969.07	5,542.04
Silver Coinage	20,000.00	—
Casual Revenue...	1,663.61	—
Total Revenue	314,017.67	274,690.40

Expenditure.

—	1897.	1898.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	11,190.67	11,143.81
2. Pensions	5,395.76	5,487.20
3. Governor and Councils	12,745.82	11,862.39
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	9,519.64	9,155.06
5. Commissioners of Currency	1,081.75	429.04
6. Treasury and Custom House	22,450.71	14,193.48
6A. Audit Department	—	1,359.72
7. Post Office	14,393.57	24,142.18
8. Judicial	14,407.75	14,771.73
9. District Commissioners	14,725.01	15,446.87
10. Constabulary	43,617.93	41,668.22
11. Police	24,569.59	24,271.73
12. Belize Volunteer Force	498.79	3,469.45
13. Prisons	14,632.06	14,086.85
14. Medical Department	26,281.63	27,041.76
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	—	458.53
16. Education...	16,105.96	16,474.31
17. Ecclesiastical	437·40	437.40
18. Surveyor-General's Department ...	13,388.25	10,062.89
19. Botanic Station	—	2,085.97
20. Interest	780.15	744.01
21. Miscellaneous	8,130.78	7,298.91
22. Naval and Military	15,228.14	—
23. Lighthouses, &c....	5,200.49	3,870.07
24. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,142.82	4,415.61
25. Public Works Recurrent	16,866.96	17,243.29
Carried forward ...	294,791.63	281,620.48

Expenditure—continued.

—	1897.	1898.
	$	$
Brought forward ...	294,791.63	281,620.48
26. Public Works Extraordinary	10,707.25	19,622.45
Completion of Railway Survey to Western Frontier.	3,385.16	—
Telegraph Survey	729.69	—
Cost of Bullion for Coinage	9,766.81	—
27. Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	3,609.87	170.82
Total	322,990.41	301,413.75

Revenue.

The receipts for 1898 shew a net decrease, under the normal heads, of $19,327, attributable to the large reduction in the volume of imports, the abolition of the export duty on logwood, and a drop of over $6,000 in the excise duty on spirits (3. Internal Taxation). In sympathy with the diminished Customs duties, light and wharf dues shew a substantial decrease of $1,718. On the other hand, such increases as do appear in some of the heads of revenue are either of an incidental character or are due in some cases to better supervision and improved methods of collection; none can be ascribed to any cause indicating enterprise or progress.

Expenditure.

The expenditure is so far satisfactory that the items shewing an increase are either trifling in amount or are inserted for accounting reasons only, such as, for instance, "Audit," "Post Office," and "Botanic Station," which are now treated as separate departments.

Some of the items shew a decrease, such as "Naval and Military" and "Public Works Extraordinary," from incidental causes; all the others represent savings secured from the amounts voted by the observance of a rigid economy.

British Honduras, 1898.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1894 to 1898 inclusive, with notes of points of special interest attached:—

Revenue.

Year.	—	Remarks.
	$	
1894	257,287	Includes $50,000 silver coins and $21,568 Loan of 1893.
1895	275,112	Includes $20,500 silver coin and $16,128 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments.
1896	312,686	Includes $10,000 silver coin and $14,925 Export Duty on Logwood.
1897	314,017	Includes $20,000 silver coin, $7,170 Export Duty on Logwood, and $1,663 Casual Revenue.
1898	274,690	Includes $1,250 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments, $2,041 Insurance on Stores lost at sea, $1,009 Refund of cost of Survey on Lands.

Expenditure.

Year.	—	Remarks.
	$	
1894	230,283	Includes $22,908 cost of Change of Currency, $11,307 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.
1895	284,961	Includes $15,446 cost of Change of Currency, $10,193 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.
1896	269,877	Includes $7,086 Railway Survey.
1897	322,990	Includes $3,385 Railway Survey, $730 Telegraph Survey, and $9,766 cost of Coinage, $3,609 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements, $15,228 Naval and Military.
1898	301,413	Includes $36,865 on Roads, Bridges, and New Works.

The deficit on the transactions of the year 1898 was met from the balance available from the preceding year.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1898.

It may here be noted that the revenue in the four years from 1894 to 1897 was aided to the amount of over $138,000 from extraneous and abnormal sources, and that the expenditure of the same kind, during those years, only amounted to some $76,000; whereas in the year 1898 the only extraordinary item, or rather windfall, in the shape of revenue was one of $1,250; while the expenditure included a sum of about $25,000 for the construction of roads, bridges, and new works, generally and more fairly chargeable to a loan or capital account, but here charged as part of the service of the year.

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

There were no important changes in taxation in 1898.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony at the end of 1898 in respect to its Assets and Liabilities is shewn in the following table:—

—	1897.	1898.
	$	$
Assets	89,062.18	72,734.16
Liabilities	36,324.80	47,879.00
Excess of Assets	52,737.38	24,855.16

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st December 1898:—

		$
Loan of 1886...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1888...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1893...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

Provision for payment has been made by the investment of the Sinking Funds as set forth in the next table:—

	£	s.	d.		
Loan of 1886—repayable 1916:					
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	2,141	14	4		
South Australia 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	860	9	6		
Western Australia 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	341	0	11		
	3,343	4	9	@ $4.86	$16,248.13
Loan of 1888—repayable 1918:					
Cape of Good Hope 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	220	10	6		
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	767	8	6		
Victoria 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	875	2	4		
Western Australia 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	401	12	5		
	2,264	13	9	@ $4.86	$11,006.38
Loan of 1893—repayable 1923:					
Queensland 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	422	6	10		
Trinidad 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	458	2	1		
Victoria 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	1,020	11	0		
Queensland 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	208	11	0		
	2,109	10	11	@ $4.86	$10,252.39
Total Sinking Funds ...					$37,506.90

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $100,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
94,500	@ 50	47,250
135,000	@ 25	33,750
126,000	@ 10	12,600
128,000	@ 5	6,400
483,500	—	100,000

There is also a bronze one-cent piece, of which 115,000 are in circulation, with a reserve of 35,000 pieces in the Treasury strong-room.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The value of the notes in circulation on the 31st December 1898 was $112,348; and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency hold in the Colony $76,550; $35,798 having been remitted for investment in England in accordance with the provisions of the law.

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the REVENUE and EXPENDITURE of the several LOCAL BOARDS for the FIVE YEARS 1894 to 1898 inclusive.

Belize.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1894	10,869	11,467
1895	21,492	19,015
1896	23,088	22,336
1897	22,902	22,534
1898	27,648	27,143

Corosal.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1894	1,179	2,411
1895	4,160	3,924
1896	3,718	4,482
1897	3,657	3,636
1898	3,592	3,678

Orange Walk.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1894	877	2,169
1895	3,195	1,999
1896	3,200	2,569
1897	3,492	3,340
1898	3,545	3,923

Stann Creek (including Mullins River).

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1894	333	558
1895	1,451	1,400
1896	1,377	1,712
1897	2,221	1,801
1898	2,664	2,340

Toledo (Punta Gorda and Monkey River).

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1894	18.50	214
1895	697	602
1896	739	698
1897	1,146	1,318
1898	1,319	1,192

Cayo.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1894	50	300
1895	700	499
1896	754	388
1897	753	679
1898	717	931

(G.) DEBTS OF LOCAL BOARDS.

The Belize District Board is the only body having a recognised debt; which is met by an annual payment of $2,399.64, being half the interest and sinking fund on the loans of 1886 and 1888.

The same Board is also indebted to the Government of the Colony in the sum of $9,000, being the balance of the cost of the new iron bridge over the Belize River. This amount is to be paid off in five years.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1895 to 1898. A comparison extending further back would be misleading, as up to the 15th October 1894 values were expressed in sols :—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895 ...	427,802	3,237	751,575	271,026	1,453,640
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,432,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895 ...	586,841	18	331,040	366,099	1,283,998
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1898.

A remarkable feature in this latter return is the considerable increase ($83,306) in the exports to the United Kingdom as compared with 1897 and previous years, from which it may be inferred that the output of mahogany for the year was above the average. The figures under mahogany in the following statement of certain exports for the last four years tend to confirm this view :—

Article.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Mahogany ...	... *Feet*	2,868,346	$ 151,290	2,769,676	$ 186,682	6,777,382	$ 403,270	7,630,252	$ 471,279
Cedar ...	... „	62,965	2,600	33,639	1,873	234,376	12,251	316,113	15,401
Logwood ...	... *Tons*	30,830	699,525	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223
Bananas ...	... *Bunches*	454,316	93,070	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225
Plantains ...	... *No.*	1,044,020	5,232	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509
Cocoanuts ...	... „	1,440,816	14,578	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996

The values of mahogany and logwood in the above table are taken as follows :—

—		1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
		$	$	$	$
Mahogany ...	... per foot	.5$\frac{1}{4}$	.6$\frac{4}{7}$	.5$\frac{9}{10}$	.6$\frac{1}{8}$
Logwood ...	... „ ton	22.65	23.27	22.62	21.17

Bananas are valued at 20 cents per bunch for 1895 and 22 to 23 cents in the other years.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

A statement is here given showing the number of sugar mills and rum stills at work at the end of 1898 :—

—	Sugar Mills.	Rum Stills.
Corosal	16	13
Orange Walk	5	4
Stann Creek	3	—
Toledo	14	1
Cayo	11	2

3 Saw mills, Stann Creek.

1 Coffee mill, Cayo.

From the figures given in my predecessor's report for 1896 these small industries do not seem to have suffered much change.

There are no precious stones or minerals in the Colony which are the object of mining operations; nor is there any organised fishing industry, beyond what is required for the daily and local markets.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Botanical Stations.

There is only one at present, the site of which is ill-adapted to the purposes for which such stations are intended. Its extent is only an acre and a half, some of which has been reclaimed from the sea. The soil is poor and shallow and quite unsuited for purposes of exhibitive agriculture, it being impossible for the Superintendent to give practical instruction and exposition on the spot of any approved methods of cultivation or of preparation of produce.

So far the Colony has got little or no return for its outlay in starting and maintaining this station; but the Superintendent has done his best, and has been active and useful in distributing seeds and plants when he has been able to secure them, and in paying visits of instruction to those who have been willing to learn.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Grants.

The quantity of land sold during the year under review was 19,032 acres, which realised $5,542.04. Of these, 18,513 acres were sold in one block at 15 cents per acre and cost of survey; 123 lots in the proposed township of San Fernando, and 46 lots in the towns of Stann Creek, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River were also disposed of.

Leases.

At the end of the year there were 17,386 acres of land on lease, including a pastoral lease of 3,179 acres. The amount paid for rents of Crown lands for the year was $2,502.04, exclusive of rents of Crown lands in the towns of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River, which are paid to local funds.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1898.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	414	33,586	186	121,188
1895	397	40,102	182	121,368
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213
1898	409	32,037	209	151,295

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	367	34,846	186	119,709
1895	367	32,203	182	121,513
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081
1898	401	30,214	208	150,338

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	188	9,127	10	608	40	14,880
1895	162	8,260	25	351	57	21,396
1896	181	9,289	19	873	47	16,597
1897	197	10,836	28	1,119	40	15,141
1898	179	10,309	28	472	30	11,959

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	151	9,014	8	282	43	16,233
1895	160	7,620	21	343	46	16,853
1896	167	8,571	19	775	51	18,992
1897	198	12.201	28	1,153	42	15,668
1898	184	10,186	27	428	30	11,716

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	31	34,843	101	62,972	38	11,994
1895	21	24,911	105	65,617	34	11.323
1896	42	48,362	103	65,842	36	15,172
1897	52	68,956	103	65,462	55	23,613
1898	80	84,415	54	34,603	70	31,365

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1894	36	36,274	100	62,462	39	12,207
1895	28	34,579	108	65,836	34	13,047
1896	41	48,413	103	65,742	36	15,143
1897	51	68,030	104	66,253	55	23,613
1898*	79	83,533	54	34,663	70	31,392

III.—LEGISLATION.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed in 1898, of which four were Appropriation Ordinances. Of the rest, the following only appear to require any special remark in this report:—

(*a*) No. 1 provides for the holding of an inquiry when there has been a fire or any occurrence resulting in serious injury.

(*b*) No. 5 empowers the Governor in Council to require persons entering into insurance contracts to satisfy him that reasonable security exists, or will exist, for the due performance of all such contracts into which they have entered or may thereafter enter. Contracts of marine and fire assurance, and contracts made by friendly societies duly enrolled according to the law of the Colony, are excepted from the operation of this Ordinance.

(*c*) No. 10 empowers the Governor in Council to make rules regulating the issuing of Bills of Health.

(*d*) No. 11 provides for the summary collection of Crown rents.

(*e*) No. 12 provides for the recognition in this Colony of Probates and Letters of Administration granted by Courts of Probate in British possessions or by British Courts of Probate in foreign countries.

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* The cause of the increase of British and Norwegian steamers and decrease of American steamers entered and cleared in 1898 was the Spanish-American war, the mails from the United States having been brought by the former vessels instead of by the latter as heretofore.

IV.—EDUCATION.

"The control of primary education in the Colony is vested, by Ordinance 25 of 1892 and regulations framed thereunder, in a Board of Education, composed of the members of the Executive Council and five other gentlemen nominated by the Governor. Of this Board, which has been in existence since January 1894, the Governor is president, whilst the nominated members are representatives of the five religious bodies, namely, the Church of England, the Roman Catholic, the Wesleyan, the Baptist, and the Presbyterian. Though it was thought at the time of the constitution of the new Board of Education, and, indeed, was more than once stated at meetings of the Board itself, that the system of primary education laid down by the regulations framed under Ordinance 25 of 1892 was in advance of the requirements of the Colony, the experience of the last three years of the working of the code has proved that primary education has distinctly improved since the introduction of the new system, and that greater attention has been drawn to the question of education than existed before. The drawbacks are, briefly, the multiplicity of languages among schoolgoing children; the want of proper roads, causing difficulty of communication; the scattered nature of the population; the impossibility of establishing schools in logwood and mahogany settlements, where many children necessarily are; the absence of any regular system of training teachers; and, lastly, the difficulty of retaining for any time the services of good teachers, owing to the relatively small salaries which managers of schools can afford to pay. But, notwithstanding these difficulties, much good work has been and is being done in the cause of education; and this Colony is deeply indebted to the heads of the various religious bodies for the zealous and maintained efforts put forth by them to meet its educational requirements."

The foregoing extract from Mr. E. B. Sweet-Escott's report for 1896 states the position of education in this Colony so clearly, that I venture to reproduce it as introducing the subject in this new series of Annual Reports. At the date of writing it merely requires endorsement in respect to the years 1897 and 1898.

The money provided by the Legislative Council, and authorised by the Board to be paid as grants in aid in 1898, amounted to $14,500.

The following tables furnish further details:—

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from 1894 *to* 1898.

YEAR.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
1894 ...	44	3,223	2,250	69.81	190	$ 8.759.85	$ 1,139.33	$ 2,617.84	$ 3.88
1895 ...	51	3,802	2,696	70.91	166	11,136.03	2,513.32	8,108.78	4.13
1896 ...	46	3,567	2,592	72.66	183	13,367.56	3,002.17	10,692.18	5.15
1897 ...	49	3,693	2,705	73.24	190	14.162.17	2,880.97	11,961.87	5.23
1898 ...	45	3,728	2,606	69.90	190	14.449.50	2,793.35	15,540.11	5.54

Government Grants and School Fees as received by each Denomination in 1898.

Schools.	Total Government Grants.	Total School Fees.	Proportion of Government Grants to School Fees.
	$	$	$
Church of England ...	3,543.85	792.54	4.47
Roman Catholic	5,369.85	962.25	5.58
Wesleyan	3,935.33	746.15	5.27
Baptist	1,329.92	185.46	7.17
Non-denominational ...	270.55	106.95	2.53
Totals	14,449.50	2,793.35	5.17

Numbers of, and Attendance by, Children according to Denominations in 1898.

Schools.	Number of Children on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Total School Fees.	Receipt of School Fees per unit of Average Attendance.
			$	$
Church of England	829	576	792.54	1.37
Roman Catholic ...	1,533	1,105	962.25	.87
Wesleyan	967	647	746.15	1.15
Baptist	313	223	185.46	.83
Non-denominational	86	55	106.95	1.94
Totals ...	3,728	2,606	2,793.35	1.07

The small proportion of school fees collected calls for some remark, the average sum paid for each child by the parents being $1.07 per annum, as compared to a Government grant of $5.52 and a voluntary contribution of $5.96 per head, calculated on the average daily attendance. This cannot be considered satisfactory in a country where the cost of living is very reasonable and the rates of wages are fairly high.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR-HOUSES.

The structures housing the central hospital, asylum, and poor-house in Belize still leave something to be desired in the interests of the patients and their medical men, nurses, and attendants. Some improvement has been effected by removing the poor-house to a more spacious building on a more cheerful site, thereby giving additional and much-needed accommodation to the lunatic asylum.

The central hospital is generally full, and at certain times of the year beds have to be made on the floor of the principal ward. The institution has secured the confidence of the public, and it is a matter of urgency that a building of its importance and usefulness should shortly be furnished with additional beds, and also with the ordinary requirements of a hospital, such as operating room, private wards, pantry, still room, and bath rooms, all of which it lacks at present.

The following table shews the number of patients under treatment at all the Institutions during 1898 :—

Institution.	Remained at beginning of 1898.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1899.	Average Daily.
Belize	37	362	312	57	30	30.71
Corosal	8	154	140	14	8	9.36
Orange Walk ...	4	140	129	12	3	5.55
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum	26	13	2	7	30	26.69
Poor House ...	13	16	6	6	17	13.81

REFORMATORIES.

I regret to say there is no reformatory or similar institution in the Colony.

SAVINGS BANKS.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had at the end of the year 374 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December 1898 was $25,144.26. The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum. The amount of invested funds is $23,130.32.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

It may here be mentioned that there are nine duly registered friendly societies in Belize, with whom 814 members are recorded as having invested $6,865, in addition to amounts held on current account to meet expenses and withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POLICE.

There are two forces in the Colony:—

1. The British Honduras Constabulary, a force recruited chiefly from Jamaica, and consisting of an inspector, two sub-inspectors, and 81 non-commissioned officers and men (of whom about 40 are mounted); all are stationed in the northern district, with their headquarters at Corosal, and an officer's detachment at Orange Walk.

2. The British Honduras Police, an unmounted force, consisting of one superintendent and 75 non-commissioned officers and men, distributed throughout the southern districts, about 57 being stationed in the town of Belize alone. This service is popular with the natives of the Colony, from whom it is chiefly recruited.

The discipline and conduct of both corps appear entirely satisfactory.

(B.) PRISONS.

"The prison in Belize may be regarded as the central prison, in which all prisoners sentenced to more than three months imprisonment are confined. In each of the capitals of the districts other than in Belize there is a small gaol under the direct orders of the Commissioner, which is visited from time to time by the keeper of the Belize prison, who reports on its condition, and who makes such recommendations thereon as he may consider desirable. Flogging is never used as a punishment in the district prisons, and is only resorted to in Belize in cases of gross and repeated insubordination, of assaults on warders or prisoners, and of attempted escapes."

The foregoing is also an extract from Mr. Escott's report of 1896. I agree with his view that the present appears the best system that the circumstances of the Colony justify.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison, from 1894 to 1898 :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Gaol.
1894	369	52.04
1895	428	54.21
1896	548	57.18
1897	290	57.98
1898	405	65.64

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or the magistrates during the year 1898 was 1,731, against 2,015 in 1897 and 2,231 in 1896 ; whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was—in 1898, 1,266 ; in 1897, 1,342 ; and in 1896, 1,521.

In the Supreme Court, out of 79 informations, 54 judgments for the Crown were given in 1898, as compared with 53 judgments out of 73 informations in 1897, and 55 judgments out of 74 informations in 1896.

There are no trials on indictments and no bills, as no grand jury exists ; the Attorney-General merely files an information, and when he thinks proper enters a "*nolle prosequi.*"

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The Registrar-General's report for the year gives a return of 17,946 males and 16,801 females, making a total of 34,747, and shewing an increase of 3,276 on the census total of 1891, and an increase of 470 on the total of 1897, a figure slightly in excess of the natural rate as determined by the last intercensus period.

The following table gives the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last eight years :—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1891 ...	1,372	43.60	379	1,242	39.46
1892 ...	1,219	38.73	372	1,282	40.73
1893 ...	1,274	40.48	404	1,374	43.66
1894 ...	1,162	35.32	380	1,208	36.72
1895 ...	1,355	40.626	348	1,029	31.122
1896 ...	1,435	43.025	288	977	28.893
1897 ...	1,410	40.522	309	1,013	29.524
1898 ...	1,469	42.208	281	1,146	32.905

(B.) Public Health.

The general state of the public health during the year was good. In spite of the heavy rainfall there was no marked increase in the ordinary diseases of the country, and there was no epidemic.

(C.) Climate.

According to the observations taken at the meteorological station at Belize, the total rainfall for the year was 102·04, and rain fell on 155 days. The greatest rainfall occurred in June, with a total of 20·89, and the least rain fell in March, the amount being only 0·73.

The following table gives the total rainfall, and the number of days on which rain fell during the last five years :—

Year.	Total Rainfall—Inches.	No. of Days Rain.
1894 ...	(May to December) 63.95	97
1895 ...	91.06	125
1896 ...	73.98	100
1897 ...	87.72	108
1898 ...	102.04	155

The rainiest months during the year were June to October, and the driest February to May.

The maximum shade temperature in 1898 was 98·2 in April, 93·0 in October, and 91·0 in May and September, whilst the minimum temperature recorded was 59·2 in January and 61·2 in February.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1898 was $6,631.68. The total expenditure of $24,142.18 was distributed as follows :—

	$	$
Extra Colonial :—		
Subsidy	13,679.96	
Transit dues	1,323.69	15,003.65
Intra Colonial :—		
Salaries and wages	5,400.00	
Northern subsidy	604.00	
Southern subsidy	505.23	
Various services	2,629.30	9,138.53
Total		24.142.18

The number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad from 1894 to 1898 was as follows:—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Ordinary letters ...	86,932	105,425	120,445	132,672	118,552
Registered letters ...	2,893	3,797	4,109	4,755	4,670
Post cards	2,425	2,144	3,145	2,730	2,943
Newspapers, books, &c.	61,125	67,819	83,592	94,121	93,574
Postal parcels... ...	597	772	1,228	1,276	1,343

The number of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Letters	40,638	36,187	52,835	53,313	56,860
Post cards	—	—	308	487	1,090
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	8,780	7,311	11,174	5,656	7,869

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1894 to 1898 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, &c.

Year.	Amount.
	£ *s.* *d.*
1894	695 13 3
1895	823 7 6
1896	881 1 5
1897	1,043 15 4
1898	1,336 17 10

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount. £ s. d.
1894	103 12 7
1895	174 12 6
1896	265 19 8
1897	331 1 0
1898	246 10 0

The Imperial penny postage came into force on Christmas Day. The reduction of the rate from five cents to two cents will slightly affect the revenue for some time, and benefits the classes who correspond with other parts of the British Empire at the expense of the rest of the community, but this expense is trifling, and the effect is good.

A new post office building was opened in Belize in August. It has been fitted out with all the postal conveniences required in a small establishment, and is appreciated both by the staff and the public.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEERS.

Arrangements were made and an Ordinance was passed in 1897 for the formation of a volunteer force. In December of that year a captain and officers for one company were appointed, and enrolment commenced, the corps being named "The Belize Light Infantry Corps." An efficient and active drill instructor and sergeant-major, in the person of Sergeant Ernest Sherfield, 2nd Berkshire Regiment, was obtained from England, and drills began immediately. The Imperial Government generously presented 400 stand of ·303 Martini-Enfield carbines for the use of the volunteers and the police forces, and so soon as some efficiency had been obtained in drilling by the volunteers, musketry classes were formed and duly instructed by the officer commanding. By the end of the year 1898 the corps, having increased in numbers to over 160 non-commissioned officers and men, was divided into two companies, and five more officers were appointed.

The volunteer spirit seems to have taken firm hold of the community, and the corps is likely to be a permanent and valuable institution. Much credit is due to Major Barnes and his officers and men for the energy and perseverance which they have displayed; while both the volunteers and the Colony generally may also consider themselves greatly indebted to the Governor, Colonel Sir D. Wilson, for the support and assistance which he, with his long experience in volunteer matters, has been able to give in the work of raising and organizing the force.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) IMPORTANT EVENTS.

1. The occurrence of a serious fire in January, following soon after another in the previous December, had the good effect of turning active attention to the defective state of the arrangements in Belize for the prevention of fire.

A commission of inquiry was appointed, and on its recommendation a volunteer fire brigade was enrolled, under the energetic leadership of the Hon. Sydney Cuthbert as superintendent, the necessary funds being provided by the District Board. The officers and men of the brigade have emulated the example of the volunteers; many men belong to both bodies, and have rendered active and steady support to each.

I do not observe any space allotted in the annual Blue Book for fire brigades, and venture to insert here the following statement of the strength of the Belize Fire Brigade:—

1	Superintendent.
1	Assistant Superintendent.
5	Captains.
7	Assistant Captains.
1	Engineer.
1	Keeper of Engines.
2	Night Watchmen.
80	Volunteer Firemen.
9	Supernumerary Volunteer Firemen.
228	Pumper Firemen.
335	Total.

The brigade was hardly sufficiently advanced in drill and equipment by the end of 1898 to enable me to report more than the foregoing, but I hope to be allowed to insert in next year's Blue Book the report in detail of the Superintendent.

2. The war between the United States and Spain, as fought out in the adjacent island of Cuba, affected the Colony but little, either socially or commercially. There was a slight interference with the speed and regularity of the mail service, and a rise in the rates of freights and the prices of some necessaries of life during the hostilities.

3. The one hundredth anniversary of the battle of St. George's Cay, which resulted in a victory by the settlers over the Spaniards on the 10th September 1798, whereby British Honduras became, by right of conquest, a British possession, was celebrated on the 9th and 10th September by a general holiday and rejoicing. A fund was opened and subscriptions were collected, with the object of commemorating the event by some particular public work. The matter is still under consideration.

4. The sudden death of the Hon. Robert Henry Logan in October was a serious loss to the Colony. Mr. Logan had made his home in this country and many friends amongst its inhabitants; his great abilities were always ready for the service of the public, and he was a valuable member of the Legislative Council.

5. His Excellency the Governor left Belize on the 3rd June for England, and returned on the 21st November. During his absence the administration of the Government devolved upon me as Colonial Secretary.

(B.) PUBLIC WORKS.

1. A brick building, unsightly but substantial, was erected at a cost of $6,900, and serves the purposes of a post office and a district court for Belize.

2. A causeway was thrown up of earth and clay to take the place of the old wooden crossing over the three-quarter mile swamp. The work stood the heavy floods of last year well, and has been since strengthened.

(C.) FUTURE PROSPECTS. OPENINGS FOR LABOUR AND CAPITAL. COST OF LABOUR AND OF LIVING. SOCIAL AND GENERAL CONDITIONS.

The position of the Colony in relation to each one of the foregoing headings, and indeed on all social and economic questions, was, at the end of 1898, and still is, one of suspense. The event awaited is the turning of the first sod of the Belize-Peten Railway.

An enthusiastic public meeting on the railway question, presided over by the late Hon. R. H. Logan, was held in Belize in April 1898, which probably contributed in some degree to the formulation of the scheme now receiving full consideration on both sides of the Atlantic. The terms of the proposal are apparently acceptable, and there need be no difficulty in providing the necessary funds. The credit of the Colony is unimpaired from the past, and the amount of the funded debt, as compared with population, acreage, and natural resources, is insignificant. It is true that there is very little standing to the credit of our current account, but it is equally true that in normal years, even with a low tariff and light taxation, the revenue can be made to balance expenditure, burdened though the latter may be with the maintenance of a somewhat costly police establishment.

There is, therefore, no serious objection from a financial point of view to the adoption by the Colony of railway proposals such as those recently submitted. As to the material benefit to be gained, it is recognized by the majority of persons in the Colony that the ordinary industries of mahogany and logwood production need supplementing; that the more certain resource of agriculture has hardly been touched by our own Colonists; and that there is a wide field for the extension of our wood-cutting industries in the interior beyond our borders. Increased facilities of communication and transport are indispensable, and a line of railway with its accompanying telegraph appears in the first place necessary; after them roads and canals may follow.

In the meanwhile, and until probability becomes certainty, matters are at a standstill, and both employers and employed seem for the present disposed to "mark time." On that account some persons are inclined to take a gloomy view of the present condition and prospects of the country. A more hopeful view may be submitted as being more correct. The inauguration of a railway scheme is the first step necessary to secure the facilities required for extending our trade beyond our borders and developing our own resources, and until that step has been taken there can be no further scope for capital, and but a limited field for labour.

F. J. NEWTON,

Colonial Secretary.

Belize, 29th August 1899.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 310.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1899.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 278.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.
December, 1900.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other reports relating to Her Majesty's Colonial Possessions, have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
287	Straits Settlements	1898
288	Basutoland	1898–99
289	Niger Coast Protectorate	"
290	British Guiana	1897–98 & 1898–99
291	Falkland Islands	1899
292	British New Guinea	1898–99
293	Bermuda	1899
294	Barbados	"
295	Malta	"
296	Fiji	"
297	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
298	Bahamas	"
299	Sierra Leone	"
300	Gambia	"
301	Seychelles	"
302	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
303	Trinidad and Tobago	"
304	Straits Settlements	"
305	Gibraltar	"
306	Gold Coast	"
307	Ceylon	"
308	Leeward Islands	"
309	St. Helena	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.

No. 310.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1899.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1898, *see* No. 278.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR NEWTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Belize,
27th September 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the report on the Blue Book for 1899, by Mr. W. J. McKinney, C.M.G., the Acting Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

F. J. NEWTON,
Administering the Government.

6964—800—10/1900 Wt 24600 D & S—5

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1899.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1899.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) GENERAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements shew the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years 1898 and 1899, under each head of revenue and service respectively :—

Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1898.	1899.
	$	
1. Customs	145,017.18	138,121.56
2. Light Dues	6,826.35	6,805.75
3. Internal Taxation	62,464.73	60,882.42
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	16,616.55	10,025.26
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	20,937.69	21,363.29
6. Postal Revenue	6,631.68	6,635.19
7. Interest	2,022.12	850.86
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	2,320.51	533.96
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	6,311.55	2,013.34
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	269,148.36	247,231.63
10. Sale of Crown Lands	5,542.04	3,226.40
Total	274,690.40	250,458.03

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1898.	1899.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	11,143.81	11,121.91
2. Pensions	5,487.20	4,875.61
3. Governor	11,862.39	11,698.00
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	9,155.06	8,565.95
5. Commissioners of Currency	429.04	—
6. Treasury and Custom House	14,193.48	15,391.60
6A. Audit Department	1,359.72	2,259.71
7. Post Office	24,142.18	23,991.29
8. Judicial	14,771.73	13,542.17
9. District Commissioners	15,446.87	15,513.73
10. Constabulary	41,668 22	35,296.75
11. Police	24,271.73	24,232.36
12. Belize Volunteer Force	3,469.45	2,563.63
13. Prisons	14,086.85	13,776.29
14. Medical Department	27,041.76	26,578.42
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	458.53	387.34
16. Education...	16,474.31	13,693.98
17. Ecclesiastical	437.40	437.40
18. Surveyor-General's Department ...	10,062.89	8,751.78
19. Botanic Station	2,085.97	1,799.51
20. Interest	744.01	—
21. Miscellaneous	7,298.91	4,486.44
22. Naval and Military	—	—
23. Lighthouses, &c....	3,870.07	4,065.77
24. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	4,415.61	3,099.34
25. Public Works Recurrent	17,243.29	13,055.46
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	281,620.48	259,184.44
Carried forward ...	281,620.48	259,184.44

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	1898.	1899.
	$	$
Brought forward ...	281,620.48	259,184.44
26. Public Works Extraordinary	19,622.45	3,228.95
27. Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	170.82	—
Total	301,413.75	262,413.39

Revenue.

The receipts from Customs have again shown a marked decrease this year, amounting to some $7,000 less than those of the preceding year and $12,000 less than had been estimated. The deficit is the more serious as the receipts under this head include the amount of $13,341 from the export duty on mahogany and logwood imposed in the month of July; so that the actual deficit on the ordinary items of Customs Revenue amounted to over $20,000.

There has been a steady diminution of trade in the port of Belize during the last three years, and a corresponding determination on the part of merchants and storekeepers to dispose of much of their existing stocks, and to keep in hand a reduced quantity.

Expenditure.

The expenditure has been kept well within the approved limits, and in the majority of the items savings have been effected even on the reduced amounts of the estimates.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1895 to 1899 inclusive, with notes of points of special interest attached:—

Revenue.

Year.	—	Remarks.
	$	
1895	275,112	Includes $20,500 silver coin and $16,128 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments.
1896	312,686	Includes $10,000 silver coin and $14,925 Export Duty on Logwood.
1897	314,017	Includes $20,000 silver coin, $7,170 Export Duty on Logwood, and $1,663 Casual Revenue.
1898	274,690	Includes $1,250 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments, $2,041 Insurance on Stores lost at sea, $1,009 Refund of cost of Survey on Lands.
1899	250,458	Includes $13,342 export duty on mahogany and logwood from July.

Expenditure.

Year.	—	Remarks.
	$	
1895	284,961	Includes $15,446 cost of Change of Currency, $10,193 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.
1896	269,877	Includes $7,086 Railway Survey.
1897	322,990	Includes $3,385 Railway Survey, $730 Telegraph Survey, and $9,766 cost of Coinage, $3,609 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements, $15,228 Naval and Military.
1898	301,413	Includes $36,865 on Roads, Bridges, and New Works.
1899	262,413	Includes $3,228 for official residence at the Cayo.

The deficit on the transactions of the year 1899 was met from the balance available from the preceding year.

(B.) Important Changes in Taxation.

Owing to the falling off of the Revenue during the first half of the year it was found necessary to procure income from additional sources in order to meet the ordinary services of the year.

An export duty of $1·50 per 1,000 ft. superficial on mahogany and of 50 cents per ton on logwood was accordingly imposed in July —the collections from which to the end of the year amounted to $13,341. The duty does not appear so far to have seriously affected the production of these articles—nor the rates of remuneration of those employed in their respective industries.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The position of the Colony at the end of 1899 in respect to its Assets and Liabilities is shewn in the following table:—

—	1898.	1899.
	$	$
Assets	72,734.16	61,213.98
Liabilities	47,879.09	48,314.27
Excess of Assets	24,855.07	12,899.71

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1899.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st December 1899:—

		$
Loan of 1886...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1888...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1893...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

Provision for payment has been made by the investment of the Sinking Funds as set forth in the next table:—

	£	s.	d.		$
Loan of 1886—repayable 1916:					
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	2,141	14	4		
South Australia 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	860	9	6		
Western Australia 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	341	0	11		
Natal 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	234	5	8		
	3,577	10	5	@ $4.86	17,386.75
Loan of 1888—repayable 1918:					
Cape of Good Hope 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	220	10	6		
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	767	8	6		
Victoria 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	875	2	4		
Western Australia 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	401	12	5		
Natal 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	266	6	4		
	2,531	0	1	@ $4.86	12,300.68

Investment of Sinking Funds—*continued.*

	£ s. d.		$
Loan of 1893—repayable 1923 :			
Queensland 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	454 8 9		
Trinidad 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	458 2 1		
Victoria 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	1,020 11 0		
Queensland 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	246 4 1		
Cape of Good Hope 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	410 8 9		
	2,589 14 8	@ $4.86	12,586.10
Total Sinking Funds ...			42,273.53

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $100,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
94,500	50	47,250
135,000	25	33,750
126,000	10	12,600
128,000	5	6,400
483,500	—	100,000

There is also a bronze one-cent piece; the amount in circulation being 150,000 pieces.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The amount of the notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1899, was $100,704; and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency hold in the Colony $64,906; $35,798 having been remitted for investment in England.

(F.) Comparative Statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the several Boards for the Five Years 1895 to 1899 inclusive.

Belize.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1895	21,492	19,015
1896	23,088	22,336
1897	22,902	22,534
1898	27,648	27,143
1899	27,200	28,312

Corosal.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1895	4,160	3,924
1896	3,718	4,482
1897	3,657	3,636
1898	3,592	3,678
1899	3,154	3,190

Orange Walk.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1895	3,195	1,999
1896	3,200	2,569
1897	3,492	3,340
1898	3,545	3,923
1899	2,602	4,132

Stann Creek (including Mullins River).

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1895	1,451	1,400
1896	1,377	1,712
1897	2,221	1,801
1898	2,664	2,340
1899	2,578	1,023

Toledo (Punta Gorda and Monkey River).

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1895	697	602
1896	739	698
1897	1,146	1,318
1898	1,319	1,192
1899	578	694

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1899.

Cayo.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1895	700	499
1896	754	388
1897	753	679
1898	717	931
1899	754	1,192

(G.) DEBTS OF LOCAL BOARDS.

The Belize District Board is the only body having a recognised debt; which is met by an annual payment of $2,399.64, being half the interest and sinking fund on the loans of 1886 and 1888.

The same Board was also indebted to the Government in the sum of $7,900, being the balance of the cost of the new iron bridge over the Belize River. This amount is being paid off in a period of five years from 1898.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1895 to 1899.

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895 ...	427,802	3,237	751,575	271,026	1,453,640
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895 ...	586,841	18	331,040	366,099	1,283,998
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593
1899 ...	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617

British Honduras, 1899.

The following is a statement of the quantity and value of the principal exports of the Colony during the last five years.

Article.		1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
Mahogany ...	*Feet*	2,868,346	$ 151,290	2,769,676	$ 186,682	6,777,382	$ 403,270	7,630,252	$ 471,279	6,499,168	$ 378,675
Cedar ...	"	62,965	2,600	33,639	1,873	234,736	12,251	316,113	15,401	351,149	25,456
Logwood ...	*Tons*	30,830	699,525	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223	24,098	550,569
Bananas ...	*Bunches*	454,316	93,070	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225	272,898	75,444
Plantains ...	*No.*	1,044,020	5,232	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509	1,506,750	12,498
Cocoanuts ...	"	1,440,816	14,578	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996	2,609,831	25,569

British Honduras, 1899.

The values of mahogany and logwood in the above table are taken as follows :—

——	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
	$	$	$	$	$
Mahogany... ... *per foot*	.5	$.6\frac{4}{7}$	$.5\frac{9}{10}$	$.6\frac{1}{8}$	$.5\frac{4}{5}$
Logwood ... ... „ *ton*	22.65	23.27	22.62	21.17	22.85

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTORIES, AND FISHERIES.

Under this head I have only to mention that a few small sugar mills and rum stills are at work—about forty of the former and about twenty of the latter—chiefly in the districts of Corosal and Toledo. They mainly supply local requirements—a certain amount of rum is exported for consumption in the Central American Republics.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The production of Bananas, Plantains, Pineapples, India Rubber, Cacao and Cocoanuts of varying quantity and quality affords some ground for hoping that along with the wood-cutting industries, an agricultural industry may in time be organized and developed through the large and generally fertile tracts of land available for this purpose.

As regards the fruit production, the possibilities are considerable, provided that growers can undertake a regular and uniform supply of marketable fruit in return for efficient transportation and a reliable market.

The cultivation of the India Rubber Plant and the Cacao is occupying increased attention, and invites the employment of outside capital with some prospect of success.

But in all cases where intelligent cultivation is required a difficulty in the labour supply is experienced.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Grants.

During 1899, 905 acres, in 23 sections, were sold and realized $3,225.40. 20 lots in the proposed township of San Fernando, and 43 lots in the towns of Belize, Stann Creek, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River were also disposed of.

Leases.

At the end of the year there were 17,416 acres of land in 407 sections on lease, including a pastoral lease of 3,179 acres. The amount paid for rents of Crown lands for the year was $2,574.24, exclusive of $1,766.36, rents of Crown lands in the towns of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River, which are credited to local funds.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively :—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	397	40,102	182	121,368
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213
1898	409	32,037	209	151,295
1899	368	25,080	216	166,104

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	367	32,203	182	121,513
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081
1898	401	30,214	208	150,338
1899	374	27,716	214	163,358

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	162	8,260	25	351	57	21,396
1896	181	9,289	19	873	47	16,597
1897	197	10,836	28	1,119	40	15,141
1898	179	10,309	28	472	30	11,959
1899	175	10,398	27	671	27	10,259

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	160	7,620	21	343	46	16,853
1896	167	8,571	19	775	51	18,992
1897	198	12,201	28	1,153	42	15,668
1898	184	10,186	27	428	30	11,716
1899	177	10,376	29	677	31	11,796

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	21	24,911	105	65,617	34	11.323
1896	42	48,362	103	65,842	36	15,172
1897	52	68,956	103	65,462	55	23,613
1898	80	84,415	54	34,603	70	31,365
1899	51	69,222	106	66,804	57	27,429

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1895	28	34,579	108	65,836	34	13,047
1896	41	48,413	103	65,742	36	15,146
1897	51	68,030	104	66,256	55	23,613
1898	79	83,533	54	34,663	70	31,392
1899	50	66,523	105	66,756	57	27,430

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed in 1899, of which four were Appropriation Ordinances, one imposed an export duty on logwood and mahogany, eleven were Amending Ordinances and one has been repealed; of the rest, the following only appear to require special remark in this report:—

(*a*) Ordinance No. 1 consolidates and amends the law for the protection of property in the Town of Belize from destruction or injury by fire.

(*b*) Ordinance No. 5 repeals the former law on the same subject, and provides more clearly and explicitly for the vindication of Crown lands.

(*c*) Ordinance No. 11 regulates the jurisdiction, practice and procedure of the District Courts.

(*d*) Ordinance No. 18 facilitates the collection of the land tax, and exempts small parcels of land from the payment thereof.

(*e*) Ordinance No. 24 enables the Governor to relieve Foreign Governments from payment of Import duty and from certain restrictions on the export of goods.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1899.

IV.—EDUCATION.

Owing to the necessity for retrenchment, the vote for Education was reduced for this year from $14,500 to $12,000. This involved a reduction at the rate of 15 per cent. of all grants payable to aided schools on the lines already laid down; the withdrawal of grants in respect of children under five—limiting the number of grant-aided schools and of pupil teachers to those already on the list, and the reduction of some small bonuses payable to teachers on the results of the annual examinations of their schools.

The good work done by the schools, which are under the management of a Board—chiefly ecclesiastical—and an Inspector, does not appear to have been impaired seriously by the reduction of the grant. The Inspector's report on them is complete and on the whole satisfactory, but it is to be regretted that the amount of school fees received is small and has been steadily on the decrease since 1896.

There is no school rate levied at present in the Colony.

The following tables furnish further details :—

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from **1895** *to* **1899.**

YEAR.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
1895 ...	51	3,802	2,696	70·91	166	$ 11,136.03	$ 2,513.32	$ 8,108.78	$ 4.13
1896 ...	46	3,567	2,592	72·66	183	13,367.56	3,002.17	10,692.18	5.15
1897 ...	49	3,693	2,705	73·24	190	14,162.17	2,880.97	11,961.87	5.23
1898 ...	45	3,728	2,606	69·90	190	14,449.50	2,793.35	15,540.11	5.52
1899 ...	42	3,547	2,491	70·23	186	11,637.26	2,479.49	10,126.58	4.67

Government Grants and School Fees as received by each Denomination in 1899.

Schools.	Total Government Grants.	Total School Fees.	Proportion of Government Grants to School Fees.
	$	$	$
Church of England ...	3,132.85	756.79	4.14
Roman Catholic	4,176.75	786.18	5.32
Wesleyan	3,169.48	742.50	4.27
Baptist	961.96	110.40	8.71
Non-denominational ...	196.22	83.62	2.34
Totals	11,637.26	2,479.49	4.69

Numbers of, and Attendance by, Children according to Denominations in 1899.

Schools.	Number of Children on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Total School Fees.	Receipt of School Fees per unit of Average Attendance.
			$	$
Church of England	848	596	756.79	1.27
Roman Catholic ...	1,448	1,043	786.18	.75
Wesleyan	895	605	742.50	1.23
Baptist	283	198	110.40	.56
Non-denominational	73	49	83.62	1.71
Totals ...	3,547	2,491	2,479.49	.99

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR-HOUSES.

It is to be regretted that the remarkable shortcomings mentioned in this Report last year in connection with the Central Hospital at Belize are still in evidence. None of the necessary and invariable adjuncts of a hospital, such as operating-room. private wards, pantry, or bath-rooms have yet been added.

Such a state of things is unfair to the management and a hardship on the inmates.

The following table shews the number of patients under treatment at all the institutions during 1899 :—

Institution.	Remained at beginning of 1899.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1900.	Average Daily.
Belize	30	399	319	64	46	37·87
Corosal	8	164	147	14	11	7·31
Orange Walk ...	3	119	112	9	1	7·56
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum	30	14	5	4	35	33·22
Poor House ...	17	19	13	7	16	18·37

SAVINGS BANKS.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government—one in the chief town of each district. The savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had at the end of the year 302 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December, 1899, was $31,319.61 as against $25,144.26 in 1898.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $23,130.32.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

It may here be mentioned that there are nine duly registered Friendly Societies in Belize, with whom 617 members are recorded as having invested $9,549.41 in addition to amounts held on current account to meet expenses and withdrawals.

L. of C.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) Police.

There are two forces in the Colony :—

1. The British Honduras Constabulary, consisting of an inspector, two sub-inspectors, and about 80 non-commissioned officers and men, of whom about 35 are mounted. It is stationed in the northern district, with headquarters at Corosal, an officer's detachment at Orange Walk, and a small detachment at the Cayo.

This force is being gradually reduced.

2. The British Honduras Police, unmounted, consisting of one superintendent and 75 non-commissioned officers and men, distributed throughout the other districts, about 56 being stationed in the town of Belize alone.

The discipline and conduct of the police forces have been satisfactory.

(B.) Prisons.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison, from 1895 to 1899 :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1895	428	54·21
1896	548	57·18
1897	290	57·98
1898	405	65·64
1899	263	53·67

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1899 was 1,614, against 1,731 in 1898 and 2,015 in 1897 ; whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was—in 1899, 1,136 ; in 1898, 1,266 ; and in 1897, 1,342.

In the Supreme Court, out of 62 informations, 40 judgments for the Crown were given in 1899, as compared with 54 judgments out of 79 informations in 1898, and 53 judgments out of 73 informations in 1897.

There are no trials on indictments and no bills, as no grand jury exists; the Attorney-General merely files an information, and when he thinks proper enters a "*nolle prosequi.*"

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The Registrar-General returns the population in 1899 as 35,226, consisting of 18,194 males and 17,032 females, as against 17,946 males and 16,801 females in 1898, a total increase of 479, as against 470 of the previous year.

He further reports a marked decrease in the number of marriages registered, viz., 273, the lowest number yet recorded since 1891, and submits an interesting table, showing that of the 546 persons married, 352 were unable to sign their names.

The rate of illegitimate births—about 40 per cent. for the whole Colony—is also pointed out as the highest recorded since 1891.

The following table gives the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last nine years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1891 ...	1,372	43·60	379	1,242	39·46
1892 ...	1,219	38·73	372	1,282	40·73
1893 ...	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66
1894 ...	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895 ...	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42·208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The general state of the public health during the year was good. There was no marked increase in the ordinary diseases of the country, nor was there any epidemic.

(C.) CLIMATE.

According to the observations taken at the meteorological station at Belize, the total rainfall for the year was 80·47, and rain fell on 152 days. The greatest rainfall occurred in October, with a total of 18·74, and the least rain fell in February, the amount being only 1·99.

The following table gives the total rainfall, and the number of days on which rain fell during the last five years :—

Year.	Total Rainfall—Inches.	No. of Days Rain.
1895 ...	91·06	125
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	108
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152

October and November were the rainiest months of the year; the driest, January to September.

The maximum shade temperature was 90·2 in September, 89·8 in August and October, and 88·9 in March; whilst the minimum temperature recorded was 56·0 in January and December.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1899 was $6,635.19.

The total expenditure of $23,991.29 was distributed as follows:—

	$	$
EXTRA COLONIAL:—		
Subsidy	14,499.96	
Transit dues	57.41	
		14,557.37
INTRA COLONIAL:—		
Salaries and wages	2,715.60	
Northern subsidy	5 400.00	
Southern subsidy	448.00	
Various services	870.32	
		9,433.92
Total		23,991.29

The number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad from 1895 to 1899 was as follows:—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Ordinary letters ...	105,425	120,445	132,672	118,552	124,847
Registered letters ...	3,797	4,109	4,755	4,670	4,828
Post cards	2,144	3,145	2,730	2,943	2,907
Newspapers, books, &c.	67,819	83,592	94,121	93,574	86,486
Postal parcels... ...	772	1,228	1,226	1,343	1,672

The number of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Letters	36,187	52,835	53,313	56,860	56,619
Post-cards	—	308	487	1,090	752
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	7,311	11,174	5,656	7,869	6,956

The transactions in connection with the Money Order system from 1895 to 1899 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, &c.

Year.	Amount. £ s. d.
1895	823 7 6
1896	881 1 5
1897	1,043 15 4
1898	1,336 17 10
1899	1,228 2 10

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount. $
1899	2,289.13

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1895	174 12 6
1896	265 19 8
1897	331 1 0
1898	246 10 0
1899	182 12 5

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	807.97

The introduction of Imperial penny postage does not appear to have seriously affected the Postal Revenue.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEERS.

The Volunteer Force has been well supported, and the full strength of the corps amounted on the 31st December, 1899, to 9 officers and 158 non-commissioned officers and men—formed into two companies. Some proficiency in musketry has been attained by many of the corps, but the only site at present available for a range is not a satisfactory one.

The corps also suffered under the disadvantage for half the year of having no drill instructor, owing to the unfortunate death of Drill Instructor and Sergeant-Major E. Sherfield, and to the difficulty found in promptly replacing him.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Important Events.

Railway.—Proposals for the construction of a railway from Belize to Guatemala were submitted by Mr. Perks, M.P., to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and the Legislative Council of the Colony in turn passed a resolution accepting the terms of the scheme in respect of land grant and money subsidy. Unfortunately Mr. Perks found it necessary to withdraw his proposals, before their final acceptance and embodiment in the form of a contract, owing to the sudden increase of prices in freight, iron, lumber, and railway material generally.

The project is once more in abeyance.

A large and carefully organised plan of operations on the part of the United States of Mexico against the recalcitrant Indians in the interior and Southern Districts of Yucatan has been initiated.

The command of the southern portion of the force, having its headquarters at Sombreréte or Zaragoza, on the extreme South of Yucatan, was entrusted to Brigadier-General A. O. Monasterio, who previously to that had been Consul-General for Mexico in this Colony. The consent of the Government was obtained to the use of Belize Harbour and the territorial waters of the Colony by the Mexican force on certain conditions. The operations, which appear to consist of a deliberate and gradual military occupation of the country, are proceeding with success.

The peaceful settlement of so rich a province, bordering on British Honduras, must prove advantageous to the Colony.

The death of the Honourable J. H. Phillips, C.M.G., an old and valued member of the Executive Council, took place, after a long illness, on the 2nd February, 1899.

(B.) Public Works.

The only "Public Work Extraordinary" undertaken during the year was the erection of a suitable house for the use of the District Commissioner of the Cayo; this has been completed satisfactorily.

(C.) Future Prospects. Openings for Labour and Capital. Cost of Labour and of Living. Social and General Conditions.

Under the above headings I can only refer to the last paragraph of the Report for 1898, in which the industrial attitude of colonists generally, both employers and employed, was

British Honduras, 1899.

depicted as that of "marking time." The Railway Scheme is again in abeyance. In the meanwhile the wood-cutting and fruit-growing industries continue as heretofore. So long as the price of labour keeps its present level, and so long as the Government can carry out the ordinary administration of the country without running into debt and without pledging its credit for public works of questionable advantage, there is no cause for anxiety or despondency.

W. J. McKinney,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Belize, 27th September 1900.

LONDON:
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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 339.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1900.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 310.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
November, 1901.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
317	Jamaica	1899–1900
318	British Guiana	"
319	Christmas Island	1900
320	British Solomon Islands	1899-1900
321	Lagos	1900
322	Bermuda	"
323	St. Helena	"
324	Sierra Leone	"
325	Gambia	"
326	Barbados	"
327	Bahamas	"
328	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
329	Malta	"
330	Straits Settlements	"
331	Fiji	"
332	St. Lucia	"
333	Seychelles	"
334	Falkland Islands	"
335	Mauritius and Rodrigues	"
336	British New Guinea	1899–1900
337	Leeward Islands	1900
338	Trinidad and Tobago	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong (New Territory)	Report on Operations, 1900.

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British Honduras, 1900.

No. 339.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1899, *see* No. 310.)

GOVERNOR SIR D. WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Belize,
3rd October, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you the Report on the Blue Book for 1900, by Mr. F. J. Newton, C.M.G., the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,

D. WILSON,
Governor.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

I.—FINANCIAL.

(A.) General Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements shew the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years 1899 and 1900, under each head of revenue and service respectively :—

Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1899.	1900.
	$	$
1. Customs	138,121.56	170,251.52
2. Light Dues	6,805.75	5,921.34
3. Internal Taxation	60,882.42	64,451.03
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	10,025.26	10,515.65
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	21,363.29	20,392.19
6. Postal Revenue	6,635.19	11,054.87
7. Interest	850.86	2,255.16
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	533.96	200.16
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	2,013.34	1,765.79
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	247,231.63	286,807.51
10. Sale of Crown Lands	3,226.40	2,920.38
Total	250,458.03	289,727.89

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1899.	1900.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	11,121.91	11,134.44
2. Pensions	4,875.61	5,201.51
3. Governor	11,698.00	11,679.19
Carried forward ...	27,695.52	28,015.14

Expenditure—continued.

Head of Expenditure.	1899.	1900.
	$	$
Brought forward ...	27,695.52	28,015.14
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	8,565.95	8,836.15
5. Treasury and Custom House	15,391.60	15,026.53
6. Audit Department	2,259.71	2,066.87
7. Post Office	23,991.29	24,072.69
8. Judicial	13,542.17	13,114.14
9. District Commissioners	15,513.73	15,351.22
10. Constabulary	35,296.75	28,608.41
11. Police	24,232.36	23,979.62
12. Belize Volunteer Force	2,563.63	1,587.45
13. Prisons	13,776.29	12,402.26
14. Medical Department	26,578.42	25,154.11
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	387.34	78.68
16. Education...	13,693.98	13,191.53
17. Ecclesiastical	437.40	437.40
18. Surveyor-General's Department ...	8,751.78	7,489.49
19. Botanic Station	1,799.51	1,742.18
20. Miscellaneous	4,486.44	3,204.36
21. Lighthouses, &c....	4,065.77	3,569.20
22. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,099.34	3,195.33
23. Public Works Recurrent	13,055.46	11,345.17
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	259,184.44	242,467.93
24. Public Works Extraordinary	3,228.95	3,733.15
25. Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	—	—
Total	262,413.39	246,201.08

Revenue.

The receipts from Customs show a marked increase owing to the raising of the tariff during a portion of the year, and also to the fact of the value and volume of dutiable imports having been greater than that of the preceding year.

The quantity of mahogany exported was also exceptional, and is noticed later on.

Expenditure.

The expenditure has been kept well within the approved limits, and in the majority of the items savings have been effected even on the reduced amounts of the estimates.

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the five years 1896 to 1900 inclusive, with notes of points of special interest attached:—

Revenue.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1896	312,686	Includes $10,000 Silver Coin and $14,925 Export Duty on Logwood.
1897	314,017	Includes $20,000 Silver Coin, $7,170 Export Duty on Logwood, and $1,663 Casual Revenue.
1898	274,690	Includes $1,250 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments, $2,041 Insurance on Stores Lost at Sea, $1,009 Refund of Cost of Survey on Lands.
1899	250,458	Includes $13,342 Export Duty on Mahogany and Logwood from July.
1900	289,727	Includes the same Export Duty as in 1899, amounting to $22,251, and an increase from 10 to 12½ per cent. on ad valorem goods from the 23rd June.

Expenditure.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1896	269,877	Includes $7,086 Railway Survey.
1897	322,990	Includes $3,385 Railway Survey, $730 Telegraph Survey, and $9,766 cost of Coinage, $3,609 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements, $15,228 Naval and Military.
1898	301,413	Includes $36,865 on Roads, Bridges, and New Works.
1899	262,413	Includes $3,228 for Official Residence at the Cayo
1900	246,201	Includes $2,229 for New Wing to the Belize Hospital.

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(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

Owing to the decline of the Revenue in the early part of the year it was found necessary to amend the tariff by transferring certain important articles of consumption, such as bread, salted fish, Indian corn, rice, salt, and others from the free list to the list of ad valorem goods, the rate in respect of which was altered from 10 to 12½ per cent. The Ordinance effecting this change came into operation on the 23rd June.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony at the end of 1900 in respect to its Assets and Liabilities is shewn in the following table:—

—	1899.	1900.
	$	$
Assets	61,213.98	108,470.81
Liabilities	48,314.27	52,044.09
Excess of Assets	12,899.71	56,426.72

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st December 1900:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1886...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1888...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1893...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

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BRITISH HONDURAS, 1900

Provision for payment has been made by the investment of the Sinking Funds as set forth in the next table:—

	£	s.	d.		$
Loan of 1886—repayable 1916:					
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	2,141	14	4		
South Australia 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	860	9	6		
Western Australia 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	341	0	11		
Natal 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	315	13	7		
Lagos Scrip	155	4	1		
	3,814	2	5	@ $4.86	18,536.62
Loan of 1888—repayable 1918:					
Cape of Good Hope 4 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	220	10	6		
New South Wales 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	767	8	6		
Victoria 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	875	2	4		
Western Australia 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	401	12	5		
Natal 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	383	9	1		
Lagos Scrip	151	18	9		
	2,800	1	7	@ $4.86	13,608.38
Loan of 1893—repayable 1923:					
Queensland 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	454	8	9		
Trinidad 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	458	2	1		
Victoria 3½ per cent. Inscribed Stock.	1,020	11	0		
Queensland 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock	288	0	6		
Cape of Good Hope 3 per cent. Inscribed Stock.	410	8	6		
Lagos Scrip	200	0	0		
Trinidad Scrip	241	18	4		
	3,073	9	5	@ $4.86	14,937.07
Total Sinking Funds ...					47,082.07

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $100,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
94,500	50	47,250
135,000	25	33,750
126,000	10	12,600
128,000	5	6,400
483,500	—	100,000

There is also a bronze cent piece, the amount in circulation being 150,000 pieces.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.

Two dollars.

Five dollars.

Ten dollars.

Fifty dollars.

One hundred dollars.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1900, was $109,846; and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency hold in the Colony $74,048, $35,798 having been remitted for investment in England.

(F.) COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF THE REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE OF THE SEVERAL BOARDS FOR THE FIVE YEARS 1896 TO 1900 INCLUSIVE.

Belize.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1896	23,088	22,336
1897	22,902	22,534
1898	27,648	27,143
1899	27,200	28,312
1900	25,396	25,222

Corosal.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1896	3,718	4,482
1897	3,657	3,636
1898	3,592	3,678
1899	3,154	3,190
1900	3,100	2,998

Orange Walk.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1896	3,200	2,569
1897	3,492	3,340
1898	3,545	3,923
1899	2,602	4,132
1900	2,836	2,846

Stann Creek (including Mullins River).

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1896	1,377	1,712
1897	2,221	1,801
1898	2,664	2,340
1899	2,578	1,023
1900	2,472	4,133

Toledo (Punta Gorda and Monkey River).

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1896	739	698
1897	1,146	1,318
1898	1,319	1,192
1899	578	694
1900	1,590	1,753

Cayo.

Year.	Revenue.	Expenditure.
	$	$
1896	754	388
1897	753	679
1898	717	931
1899	754	1,192
1900	492	428

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British Honduras, 1900.

(G.) Debts of Local Boards.

The Belize District Board is the only body having a recognised debt, which is met by an annual payment of $2,399.64, being half the interest and sinking fund on the loans of 1886 and 1888.

The same Board is also indebted to the Government in the sum of $3,900.60, being the balance of the cost of the new iron bridge over the Belize River. This amount is being paid off in a period of five years from 1898.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The following tables give the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the years 1896 to 1900 :—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473
1900 ...	376,172	2,069	708,403	112,128	1,198,772

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593
1899 ...	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617
1900 ...	613,565	—	352,358	334,642	1,300,565

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British Honduras, 1900.

The following is a statement of the quantity and value of the principal Exports of the Colony during the last five years:—

Article.		1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.	
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
			$		$		$		$		$
Mahogany ...	*Feet*	2,769,676	186,682	6,777,382	403,270	7,630,252	471,279	6,499,168	378,675	7,994,378	438,589
Cedar ...	„	33,639	1,873	234,736	12,251	316,113	15,401	351,149	25,456	400,611	19,714
Logwood ...	*Tons*	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223	24,098	550,569	20,521	432,986
Bananas ...	*Bunches*	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225	272,898	75,444	365,972	91,105
Plantains ...	*No.*	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509	1,506,750	12,498	2,106,300	17,995
Cocoanuts ...	„	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996	2,609,831	25,569	2,407,130	26,044

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BRITISH HONDURAS, 1900.

The values of mahogany and logwood in the above table are taken as follows:—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
	$	$	$	$	$
Mahogany... ... *per foot*	.6$\frac{4}{7}$	.5$\frac{9}{10}$	.6$\frac{1}{6}$	.5$\frac{4}{5}$	.5$\frac{1}{5}$
Logwood ... ... „ *ton*	23.27	22.62	21.17	22.85	21.10

The most noticeable feature in the preceding tables is the very large quantity of mahogany exported, though it is to be feared that the value placed upon it in the Customs return is excessive. There is no doubt that a large proportion of inferior wood was brought out last year and sent home to London and Liverpool. Some of it is still unsold. At one clearance sale held in London last July nearly 5,000 logs, representing over 1,000,000 feet, were pronounced to be well sold at an average of 2$\frac{23}{32}$*d.* The wood was described as "of small size and low grade and condition," and it seems unfortunate that it should have been sent out of the Colony at all.

The export of logwood shows a decline both in quantity and value.

The production of bananas and plantains has increased, and the fruit sold very readily during the latter part of the year—the result chiefly of the introduction of a new purchaser into the British Honduras field. The competition between Messrs Vaccaro Bros. and the United Fruit Company has, at any rate, temporarily raised prices, and it is hoped that sufficient fruit may be produced at the right seasons to induce both of these firms to continue their operations here.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

A few small sugar mills and rum stills are at work—about forty of the former and about twenty of the latter—chiefly in the districts of Corosal and Toledo; they mainly supply local requirements. A certain amount of rum is exported for consumption in the Central American Republics.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

The production of bananas, plantains, pineapples, india rubber, cacao and cocoanuts of varying quantity and quality still affords some ground for hoping that, along with the wood-cutting industries, an agricultural industry may in time be organized and developed through the large and generally fertile tracts of land available for this purpose; but there is no progress in this direction to be reported in respect of the past year.

As regards the fruit production, the possibilities are considerable, provided that growers can undertake a regular and uniform supply of marketable fruit in return for efficient transportation and a reliable market.

The cultivation of the india rubber plant and the cacao is occupying attention, and invites the employment of capital from abroad with every prospect of success.

But in all cases where intelligent cultivation is required a difficulty in the labour supply is experienced.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Grants.

During 1900, 1,367¼ acres, in 30 sections, were sold, and realized $2,920.38; 32 lots in the towns of Belize, Mullins River, and Monkey River were also disposed of.

Leases.

At the end of the year there were 18,426 acres of land in 457 sections on lease, including a pastoral lease of 3,179 acres. The amount paid for rents of Crown lands for the year was $2,789.42, exclusive of $1,516.98, rents of Crown lands in the towns of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River, which are credited to local funds.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	391	35,882	185	132,317
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213
1898	409	32,037	209	151,295
1899	368	25,080	216	166,104
1900	338	24,371	214	146,546

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	378	38,628	184	132,239
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081
1898	401	30,214	208	150,338
1899	374	27,716	214	163,358
1900	320	22,919	214	146,261

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	181	9,289	19	873	47	16,597
1897	197	10,836	28	1,119	40	15,141
1898	179	10,309	28	472	30	11,959
1899	175	10,398	27	671	27	10,259
1900	124	8,617	51	990	26	10,334

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	167	8,571	19	775	51	18,992
1897	198	12,201	28	1,153	42	15,668
1898	184	10,186	27	428	30	11,716
1899	177	10,376	29	677	31	11,796
1900	129	8,774	44	841	24	9,479

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	42	48,362	103	65,842	36	15,172
1897	52	68,956	103	65,462	55	23,613
1898	80	84,415	54	34,603	70	31,365
1899	51	69,222	106	66,804	57	27,429
1900	35	51,666	104	56,627	69	33,905

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1896	41	48,413	103	65,742	36	15,146
1897	51	68,030	104	66,256	55	23,613
1898	79	83,533	54	34,663	70	31,392
1899	50	66,523	105	66,756	57	27,430
1900	36	51,423	103	56,586	69	33,904

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed in 1900, of which four were Appropriation Ordinances; four (two being Ordinances amending the law relating to duties of Customs) have since been repealed and one was disallowed; of the rest, the following only appear to require notice in this report, viz.:—

(*a*) Ordinance No. 13 (amended by Ordinance No. 21), which consolidates and amends the law relating to the licensing of certain trades and business in the town of Belize.

(b) Ordinance No. 14, which amends the Labour Law.

(c) Ordinance No. 18, which amends the Marriage Law.

(d) Ordinance No. 19, which amends the law relating to Pilotage, and

(e) Ordinance No. 20, which regulates pensions, gratuities, and other allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in Her Majesty's Civil Service in this Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The Government grant in aid of education was again fixed at $12,000 instead of $14,500, and the necessary retrenchment was effected by the same method as that practised in 1899, viz., by a reduction at the rate of 15 per cent. of all grants payable to aided schools on the lines already laid down; the withdrawal of grants in respect of children under five—limiting the number of grant-aided schools and of pupil teachers to those already on the list, and the reduction of some small bonuses payable to teachers on the results of the annual examinations of their schools.

The good work done by the schools, which are under the management of a Board—chiefly ecclesiastical—and an Inspector, does not appear to have been impaired seriously by the reduction of the grant. The Inspector's report on them is complete and on the whole satisfactory, but it is to be regretted that the amount of school fees received is small and has been steadily on the decrease since 1896.

There is no school rate levied at present in the Colony.

The following tables furnish further details:—

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from 1896 to 1900.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
						$	$	$	$
1896 ...	46	3,567	2,592	72·66	183	13,367.56	3,002.17	10,692.18	5.15
1897 ...	49	3,693	2,705	73·24	190	14,162.17	2,880.97	11,961.87	5.23
1898 ...	45	3,728	2,606	69·90	190	14,449.50	2,793.35	15,540.11	5.52
1899 ...	42	3,547	2,491	70·23	186	11,637.26	2,479.49	10,126.58	4.67
1900 ...	38	3,391	2,383	70·30	188	11,245.53	2,312.53	9,101.38	4.76

Government Grants and School Fees as received by each Denomination in 1900.

Schools.	Total Government Grants.	Total School Fees.	Proportion of School Fees to Government Grants.
	$	$	
Church of England ...	2,882.53	676.21	4.26
Roman Catholic	4,104.74	710.14	5.78
Wesleyan	3,159.90	721.28	4.38
Baptist	914.62	122.35	7.47
Non-denominational ...	183.74	82.55	2.22
Totals	11,245.53	2,312.53	4.86

Numbers of, and Attendance by, Children according to Denominations in 1900.

Schools.	Number of Children on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Total School Fees.	Receipt of School Fees per unit of Average Attendance.
			$	$
Church of England	842	576	676.21	1.17
Roman Catholic ...	1,289	957	710.14	.74
Wesleyan	937	636	721.28	1.13
Baptist	254	172	122.35	.71
Non-denominational	69	42	82.55	1.96
Totals ...	3,391	2,383	2,312.53	.97

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR-HOUSES.

The remarkable shortcomings at the Belize Hospital, mentioned in Reports on the Blue Book for the last two years, are now being made good ; an additional wing is in course of erection, which will furnish space for a good female ward, besides operating room, private wards, pantries, bathrooms, &c.

The following table shews the number of patients under treatment in the hospital during 1900 :—

Institution.	Remained at beginning of 1900.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1901.	Average Daily.
Belize	46	436	379	65	38	40·11
Corosal	11	100	101	8	2	6·01
Orange Walk ...	1	145	135	8	3	6·62
Belize :— Lunatic Asylum	34	8	3	—	39	37·37
Poor-house ...	17	14	8	2	21	20·54

SAVINGS BANKS.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government—one in the chief town of each district. The savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had, at the end of the year 1900, 334 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December, 1900, was $38,925.84 as against $31,319.61 in 1899.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $22,983.14.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

It may here be mentioned that there are eight duly registered Friendly Societies in Belize, with whom 426 members are recorded as having invested $10,244.15 in addition to amounts held on current account to meet expenses and withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

There are two forces in the Colony :—

1. The British Honduras Constabulary, consisting of one inspector, one sub-inspector, and about 48 non-commissioned officers and men, of whom about 18 are mounted. It is stationed in the northern district, with headquarters at Corosal, an officer's detachment at Orange Walk, and a small detachment at the Cayo.

This force is now being gradually absorbed into the police.

2. The British Honduras Police, unmounted, consisting of one superintendent and 74 non-commissioned officers and men, distributed throughout the other districts, about 57 being stationed in the town of Belize alone.

The discipline and conduct of the police force have been satisfactory.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison, from 1896 to 1900 :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1896	548	57·18
1897	290	57·98
1898	405	65·64
1899	263	53·67
1900	286	51·34

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1900 was 1,742, against 1,614 in 1899 and 1,731 in 1898 ; whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was—in 1900, 1,209 ; in 1899, 1,136 ; and in 1898, 1,266.

In the Supreme Court, out of 66 informations, 29 judgments for the Crown were given in 1900, as compared with 40 judgments out of 62 informations in 1899, and 54 judgments out of 79 informations in 1898.

There are no trials on indictments and no bills, as no Grand Jury exists; the Attorney-General merely files an information, and when he thinks proper enters a *nolle prosequi.*

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The Registrar-General returns the population in 1900 as 36,998, consisting of 18,889 males and 18,109 females, as against 18,194 males and 17,032 females in 1899, a total increase of 1,772 as against 479 of the previous year.

He this year reports a marked increase in the number of marriages registered, viz., 339, the highest number yet recorded since 1895, and submits an interesting statement, showing that of the 678 persons married 417 were unable to sign their names.

The number of illegitimate births—622 out of a total of 1,478—shows no improvement on last year's record.

The following table gives the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last nine years :—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1892 ...	1,219	38·73	372	1,282	40·73
1893 ...	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66
1894 ...	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895 ...	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42·208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810
1900 ...	1,478	39·948	339	890	24·055

British Honduras, 1900.

(B.) Public Health.

During February and March a disease characterised by fever and glandular swellings appeared at Bacalar Chico, and was subsequently observed at Corosal; and later in the year others of a similar nature appeared at Northern River and in Belize. There were no opportunities for examining the blood bacteriologically, so the true nature of the malady is doubtful. The medical officer who saw cases and had them under treatment inclines to the view that this was a mild form of plague, in short the *pestis minor*, which, "as so often pointed out by many observers, is a disease which may precede, run concurrently with, or continue after an outbreak of true plague, or it may on the other hand occur independently of an epidemic of true plague." Happily there have been no further developments in this Colony, and the disease has died out.

There was no marked increase in the ordinary diseases of the country; the general state of the public health during the year was good. It should indeed be remarked here that while the death-rate, 24 per 1,000, is by far the lowest recorded, it will be found in the following paragraph that the rainfall, both in respect of inches and number of wet days, was abnormally heavy.

(C.) Climate.

According to the observations taken at the meteorological station at Belize, the total rainfall for the year was 114·12, and rain fell on 160 days. The greatest rainfall occurred in October, with a total of 20·64, and the least rain fell in February, the amount being only 1·79.

The following table gives the total rainfall, and the number of days on which rain fell during the last five years :—

Year.	Total Rainfall—Inches.	No. of Days.
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160

October and November were the rainiest months of a year which has been the wettest so far recorded. It will be observed that 63·91 inches fell in the last four months alone. The driest months were February and March.

The maximum shade temperature was 94·8 in May, 93·8 in September, 93·2 in October, and 93·0 in November; whilst the minimum temperature recorded was 51·8 in February and 56·0 in January.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1900 was $11,054.87.

The total expenditure of $24,072.69 was distributed as follows:—

	$	$
Extra Colonial:—		
Subsidy	14,499.96	
Transit dues	409.10	14,909.06
Intra Colonial:—		
Salaries and wages	2,875.00	
Northern subsidy	5,400.00	
Southern subsidy	432.00	
Various services	456.63	9,163.63
Total		24,072.69

The number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad from 1896 to 1900 was as follows:—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Ordinary letters ...	120,445	132,672	118,552	124,847	141,860
Registered letters ...	4,109	4,755	4,670	4,828	8,268
Post-cards	3,145	2,730	2,943	2,907	4,271
Newspapers, books, &c.	83,592	94,121	93,574	86,486	97,989
Postal parcels... ...	1,228	1,226	1,343	1,672	2,063

The number of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table :—

—	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.
Letters	52,835	53,313	56,860	56,619	58,579
Post-cards	308	487	1,090	752	1,279
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	11,174	5,656	7,869	6,956	8,113

The transactions in connection with the Money Order system from 1896 to 1900 were as follows :—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, &c.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1896	891 1 5
1897	1,043 15 4
1898	1,336 17 10
1899	1,228 2 10
1900	1,439 2 3

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	2,289.13
1900	3,461.68

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1896	265 19 8
1897	331 1 0
1898	246 10 0
1899	182 12 5
1900	282 6 2

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	807.97
1900	832.14

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

Volunteers.

This force continued to progress favourably throughout the year. The strength on 31st December, 1900, was 9 officers and 168 non-commissioned officers and men.

An additional impetus was given to the volunteer movement by the appointment of Colour-Sergeant Greenway, of the Worcester Regiment, as sergeant-major and drill instructor in April, 1900, Drills were much better attended throughout the year, and although the standard of musketry attained was not, owing to very indifferent range accommodation, as good as it might have been, still considerable interest was taken in the range practices by all ranks, and the corps now contains a large number of very fair shots.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Important Events.

1. Operations against the Yucatecan Indians were conducted by the Mexican forces throughout the year. No actions on a large scale appear to have taken place, but the country occupied has apparently been made good by the advancing forces, and it is hoped that the Indians will be gradually reduced to submission without any serious loss of life on either side. The Mexican Government has continued to make use of Belize during the year as a depôt and forwarding station.

2. The promotion of Chief Justice Sir William Anderson to the Chief Justiceship of Trinidad was succeeded by the appointment of His Honour Walter Llewellyn Lewis to the post of Chief Justice of this Colony, and Mr. Lewis arrived in the Colony and assumed the duties of his office on the 6th June.

BRITISH HONDURAS, 1900.

3. His Excellency the Governor left Belize on the 26th July for England, and returned on the 29th October. During his absence the administration of the Government devolved upon me as Colonial Secretary.

(B.) PUBLIC WORKS.

The only "Public Work Extraordinary" undertaken during the year was the erection of an additional wing at the Belize Hospital. The work was not completed by the end of the year.

(C.) FUTURE PROSPECTS. OPENINGS FOR LABOUR AND CAPITAL. COST OF LABOUR AND OF LIVING. SOCIAL AND GENERAL CONDITIONS.

As I have already indicated, the outlook for our fruit trade is more promising. The fruit can be produced here, and the neighbouring port of New Orleans can, at present, take all that can be supplied of good uniform quality at certain seasons of the year.

As regards the wood-cutting industries, which have heretofore been the staple of the Colony, it would appear that the supply of real "Honduras" mahogany is beginning to fail—that is, that our exporters find it difficult to turn out that fine article which has hitherto stood so high in the estimation of the timber trade. The good wood that can be brought to the coast in existing conditions is no doubt comparatively scarce, and this condition of things must remain until improved methods of transportation render it possible to draw from the more inaccessible forests. Meanwhile the projects for a railway are apparently still in abeyance.

F. J. NEWTON,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 362.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1901.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 339.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
September, 1902.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
341	Ceylon	1900
342	Gibraltar	"
343	Basutoland	1900–1901
344	Gold Coast	1900
345	Grenada...	"
346	Northern Nigeria	1900–1901
347	British Solomon Islands	"
348	Lagos	1900
349	British Guiana	1900–1901
350	St. Vincent	1900
351	Jamaica...	1900-1901
352	Cocos Islands	1901
353	Southern Nigeria	1900
354	Bermuda...	1901
355	Gambia	"
356	Falkland Islands	"
357	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
358	Malta	"
359	Gibraltar	"
360	Straits Settlements	"
361	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand...	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas...	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague.
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific...	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas...	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies... ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei Hai Wei	General Report.

No. 362.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1900, *see* No. 339.)

GOVERNOR SIR D. WILSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House,
Belize, 29th July, 1902.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the Report on the Blue Book for 1901, prepared by the Colonial Secretary.

I have, &c.,
D. WILSON,
Governor.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1901.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial year which formerly ran concurrently with the calendar year was changed in 1901 and now commences on the 1st April and terminates on the 31st March. The quarter ended the 31st March, 1901, was treated in the Treasury accounts as a separate period, but in the statements which follow the revenue and expenditure of nine months of 1900 and three months of 1901 have been added together to form a basis for comparison with future financial years.

On the 1st April, 1900, the surplus on the General Revenue Account of the Colony was $18,132.84.

(A.) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the calendar year 1900 and the financial year 1900-1 under each head of revenue and service respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1900.	Year ended 31st March, 1901.
	$	$
1. Customs	170,251.52	174,941.13
2. Light Dues	5,921.34	5,871.38
3. Internal Taxation	64,451.03	64,347.09
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	10,515.65	10,108.17
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	20,392.19	19,948.98
6. Postal Revenue	11,054.87	10,021.98
7. Interest	2,255.16	2,249.39
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	200.16	200.16
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,765.79	2,206.73
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	286,807.51	289,895.01
10. Sale of Crown Lands	2,920.38	2,794.27
Total General Revenue ...	289,727.89	292,689.28

General Revenue—*cont.*

Head of Revenue	1900	Year ended 31st March, 1901.
	$	$
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	25,396.00	24,974.56
Corosal District	3,100.00	2,972.44
Orange Walk District	2,836.00	2,490.20
Stann Creek District	2,472.00	2,401 06
Toledo District	1,590.00	1,704.86
Cayo District	492.00	679.50
Total Local Revenue ...	35,886.00	35,222.62
Grand Total	325,613.89	327,911.90

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1900.	Year ended 31st March, 1901.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	11,134.44	11,128.21
2. Pensions	5,201.51	5,207.72
3. Governor	11,679.19	11,480 36
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	8,836.15	9,289.88
5. Treasury and Custom House	15,026.53	15,326.59
6 Audit Department	2,066.87	2,228.89
7. Post Office	24,072.69	24,079.42
8. Judicial	13,114.14	13,310.26
9. District Commissioners	15,351.22	15,647.64
10. Constabulary	28,608.41	26,267.00
11. Police	23,979.62	24,363.14
12. Belize Volunteer Force	1,587.45	1,677.98
13. Prisons	12,402.26	12,870.00
14. Medical Department	25,154.11	25,377.60
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	78.68	50.50
16. Education...	13,191.53	14,729.89
17. Ecclesiastical	437.40	437.40
18. Surveyor-General's Department ...	7,489.49	7,401.18
19. Botanic Station	1,742.18	1,704.03
20. Miscellaneous	3,204.36	4,178.69
21. Lighthouses, &c....	3,569.20	3,873.37
22. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,195.33	3,183.40
23. Public Works Recurrent	11,345.17	11,499.52
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	242,467.93	245,372.65
24. Public Works Extraordinary	3,733.15	3,813.85
Total General Expenditure ...	246,201.08	249,186.50

Expenditure—*cont.*

Head of Expenditure.	1900.	Year ended 31st March, 1901.
Local Expenditure :—	$	$
Belize District	25,222.00	26,882.13
Corosal District	2,998.00	3,585.83
Orange Walk District	2,846.00	2,688.55
Stann Creek District	4,133.00	4,005.94
Toledo District	1,753.00	1,209.43
Cayo District	428.00	452.11
Total Local Expenditure ...	37,380.00	38,823.99
Grand Total	283,581.08	288,010.49

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the five years 1897 to 1900-1 inclusive, with notes of points of special interest attached:—

General Revenue.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1897	314,017	Includes $20,000 Silver Coin, $7,170 Export Duty on Logwood, and $1,663 Casual Revenue.
1898	274,690	Includes $1,250 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments, $2,041 Insurance on Stores Lost at Sea, $1,009 Refund of Cost of Survey on Lands.
1899	250,458	Includes $13,342 Export Duty on Mahogany and Logwood from July.
1900	289,727	Includes the same Export Duty as in 1899, amounting to $22,251, and an increase from 10 to 12½ per cent. on ad valorem goods from the 23rd June.
1900–1	292,689	Includes 9 months of 1900.

General Expenditure.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1897	322,990	Includes $3,385 Railway Survey, $730 Telegraph Survey, and $9,766 cost of Coinage, $3,609 Belize Town and Harbour Improvements, $15,228 Naval and Military.
1898	301,413	Includes $36,865 on Roads, Bridges, and New Works.
1899	262,413	Includes $3,228 for Official Residence at the Cayo.
1900	246,201	Includes $2,229 for New Wing to the Belize Hospital.
1900–1	249,186	Includes 9 months of 1900.

Comparative return of local revenue and expenditure.

Revenue.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1897	22,902	3,657	3,492	2,221	1,146	753	34,171
1898	27.648	3,592	3,545	2,664	1,319	717	39,485
1899	27.200	3,154	2,602	2,578	578	754	36,866
1900	25,396	3,100	2,836	2,472	1,590	492	35,886
1900–1	24,975	2,972	2,490	2,401	1,705	679	35,222

Expenditure.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1897	22,534	3,636	3,340	1,801	1,318	679	33,308
1898	27,143	3,678	3,923	2,340	1,192	931	39,207
1899	28,312	3,190	4,132	1,023	694	1,192	38,543
1900	25,222	2,998	2,846	4,133	1,753	428	37,380
1900–1	26,882	3,586	2,689	4,006	1,209	452	38,824

The insertion twice of nine months' Revenue and Expenditure of 1900 has lessened the value of this return for purposes of comparison with the past. On the 1st January, 1897, the Boards had a surplus of $9,047 in hand, and the actual Revenue and Expenditure to 31st March, 1901 (four years and three months), resulted in the surplus being increased to $11,946. As, however, the Boards receive the principal portion of their Revenue in the month of January this apparent increase does not represent a true surplus. The true position is that on the 31st December, 1901, the surplus of 1897 had been reduced to $6,514, making the excess of Expenditure over Revenue for the five calendar years 1897 to 1901, $2,533.

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

There was no increase of taxation during the year, but on the contrary the increase of tariff from 10 to 12½ per cent. on *ad valorem* goods mentioned in the last Report lapsed on the 31st January and the rate reverted to 10 per cent., while by the

Governor's Order in Council issued under the authority of Ordinance No. 20 of 1901, the export duty on mahogany was reduced from $1.50 to 75 cents per 1,000 feet, and that on logwood from 50 cents to 25 cents per ton on 5th December, 1901.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1901, in respect of its Assets and Liabilities is shown in the following table:—

General Revenues.

—	1900.	1900-1.
	$	$
Assets	108,470.81	123,821.99
Liabilities	52,044.09	62,186.37
Excess of Assets	56,426.72	61,635.62

At the end of the calendar year 1901 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $84,138, and on Local Revenue at $6,514.00.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st March, 1901:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1887...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1891...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

These loans were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize, and half the interest and Sinking Funds in respect of the loans of 1885 and 1887 are repaid out of the local funds to General Revenues. The Sinking Fund of the Loan of 1885 will require no further contributions, as the amount now at credit, if left to accumulate at compound interest at the rate of 3 per cent., will amount to more than will be necessary to pay off the liability when it becomes due for repayment in 1916.

Provision for payment has been made by the investment of the Sinking Funds as set forth in the next table:—

	£	s.	d.
Loan of 1885—repayable 1916. $27,875=£5,735 12s.	3,890	5	8
Loan of 1887—repayable 1918. £9,000	2,910	1	10
Loan of 1891—repayable 1923. £20 000	3,120	4	0
Total Sinking Funds	9,920	11	6

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America—the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $110,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
104,500	50	52,250
155,000	25	38,750
126,000	10	12,600
128,000	5	6,400
513,500	—	110,000

There is also a bronze cent piece, the amount in circulation being 150,000 pieces.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st March, 1901, was $122,128; and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in the Colony $86,330, $35,798 having been remitted for investment in England.

(F.) DEBTS OF LOCAL BOARDS.

The Boards have not been authorised to contract loans, and the only Local Debt is a sum of $1,900.60, being the balance due by the Belize District Board on account of an advance made to this Board out of General Revenues for the construction of an iron bridge over the Belize River. The Board, however, has surplus revenue more than sufficient to cover the debt. The annual payment made by the same Board to General Revenues in refund of half the interest and Sinking Fund on the Town and Harbour Improvements Loans of 1885 and 1887, amounts to $2,399.64.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the years 1896 to 1901:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473
1900 ...	376,172	2.069	708.403	112,128	1,198,772
1901 ...	373,506	3,941	731,137	118,618	1,227,202

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282 593
1899 ...	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617
1900 ...	613,565	—	352,358	334,642	1,300,565
1901 ...	635,913	—	595,285	156,400	1,387,598

The following is a statement of the quantity and value of the principal Exports of the Colony during the last six years:—

Article.	1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.		1900.		1901.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Feet.	$	Feet.	$	Feet.	$	Feet.	$	Feet.	$	Feet.	$
Mahogany	2,769,676	186,682	6,777,382	403,270	7,630,252	471,279	6,499,168	378,675	7,994,378	438,589	6,485,952	359,220
Cedar ...	33,639	1,873	234,736	12,251	316,113	15,401	351,149	25,456	400,611	19,714	421,231	20,977
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood ...	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223	24,098	550,569	20,521	432,986	19,682	376,569
	Bunches.		Bunches.		Bunches.		Bunches.		Bunches.		Bunches.	
Bananas ...	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225	272,898	75,444	365,972	91,105	538,751	152,514
	No.		No.		No.		No.		No.		No.	
Plantains...	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509	1,506,750	12,498	2,106,300	17,995	1,883,450	14,988
Cocoanuts,	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996	2,699,831	25,569	2,407,130	26,044	3,265,357	41,114

The values of mahogany and logwood in the above table are taken as follows:—

—		1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1091
		$	$	$	$	$	$
Mahogany	... per foot	$.6\frac{4}{7}$	$.5\frac{9}{10}$	$.6\frac{1}{8}$	$.5\frac{4}{5}$	$.5\frac{2}{5}$	$.5\frac{1}{2}$
Logwood	... „ ton	23.27	22.62	21.17	22.85	21.10	19.13

Three large firms of mahogany and logwood merchants suspended operations during 1901, which doubtless accounts for the decreased exports, but the most serious aspect of the case is that those who have continued in the business complain of losses on their shipments, and declare their intention to restrict their operations. If they devote their capital to other industries the Colony will soon recover its prosperity, but up to the end of the year no movement in this direction appears to have taken place.

The exports of mahogany which in 1895 and 1896 were only 2,868,346 and 2,769,676 feet, respectively increased at a bound in 1897 to 6,777,382 feet, and in 1898 to 7,630 252 feet, decreasing in 1899 to 6,499,168 feet, only to rise again in 1900 to 7,994,378 feet. In the meantime the mahogany trade was being pushed in West Africa, and it would appear that the supply has in consequence exceeded the demand. The Customs Returns do not disclose any adequate reason in the fluctuation of prices for the great increase of exports in 1897 to 1900, as the price per foot is shown as highest in 1896 and 1898, and that for 1901 is somewhat higher than for 1900 although there are wide complaints that the trade has become unremunerative. I am afraid that the deductions to be drawn from this circumstance are that the value of the wood cannot always be accurately ascertained by the Customs officers, and that the large quantity of wood cut in recent years has exhausted the supply in easily accessible areas, and the cost of haulage of what is now available is excessive; the cost of production is therefore higher than formerly. It is probable moreover that the losses on measurement in England have a material bearing on the profits of the trade. I have been afforded a perusal of a recent sale catalogue of mahogany, from which I gather the following particulars:—The "extreme contents" of the shipment amounted to 221,314 superficial feet, whereas the "sale contents" are returned as 157,429 feet, a loss of 63,885 feet or 28·86 per cent. of the shipment. A careful enquiry into the cause of this and similar discrepancies might result in a means being discovered of minimizing these losses, to the great advantage of the exporter.

The output of logwood has declined from 30,539 tons, valued at $803,636, in 1896 to 19,682 tons, valued at $376,569, in 1901, the price having declined from $23.27 to $19.13 per ton, and the cost of freight increased from 28*s.* 9*d.* in 1899 to 33*s.* 9*d.* in 1901.

The exports of cedar are increasing and were valued at over $20,000 more in 1901 than in 1896.

Bananas declined steadily from 414,398 bunches, valued at $94,868, in 1896 to 272,898 bunches, valued at $75,444, in 1899, but showed considerable recovery in 1900, which continued and was greatly increased in 1901, the export being 538,751 bunches, valued at $152,514.

Cocoanuts which had been gradually increasing with some fluctuation since 1896 rose to 3,265,357 in quantity and $41,114 in value in 1901, as against 1,707,041 in quantity and $16,770 in value in 1896.

Plantains have fluctuated from year to year, but the exports were over $5,000 more in value in 1901 than in 1896.

A general review of the export trade seems to show that for some reason not very clearly indicated but doubtless owing to an increased demand for mahogany and better prices, almost all other industries began to be neglected in 1897 and the energies of the population were devoted to increasing the output of mahogany, and that this trade proved remunerative for three or four years but is now undergoing the inevitable period of depression following inflation. Some encouragement may be felt from the circumstance that the banana industry shows some sign of resuming its importance and that cocoanuts indicate a steady and satisfactory increase.

The decrease in exports to other countries, $178,242, is due to a diminution in the amount of logwood shipped to France, Holland and Germany of $154,107 in value, and to the fact that Belize has lost a great deal of its trade with Guatemala and Spanish Honduras.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES, AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines being worked.

The returns show two steam sugar mills with stills at Orange Walk, and four steam sugar mills and one still, also 10 cattle mills, at Toledo; at the Cayo, 13 cattle sugar mills, two stills and one coffee mill. No sugar is exported, but 1,701½ gallons of rum were shipped to Honduras.

There is a sponge fishery, and the export during the year amounted to 10,786 lbs., valued at $2,553. A few turtle and fish are caught by native fishermen to supply the local markets.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

There is a small Botanic Station in a corner of the grounds of Government House, but the soil is sea sand and at high tide a portion of it is under water, while no part is higher than about six or eight inches above sea level, and it is almost impossible to attempt much besides nursery work, the growth of plants in pots, and of a few hardy trees and shrubs in the sand. The services of the superintendent were utilised to a limited extent during the year in visiting out-districts and giving advice to planters who asked for his assistance. The number of plants distributed from this station was as follows:—

Cacao	1,550
Coffee	860
Nutmegs	559
Rubber	400
Logwood	2,400
Various, Fruits, &c.	278
„ Ornamental	777
	6,824
Rice seeds	8 packets

The principal drawbacks to agricultural development are want of knowledge of proper methods on the part of the land-owners and lack of skilled prædial labour. The adoption of labour-saving implements and a good system of drainage would make a marked difference in profits. The failure of mahogany within the past two years and of logwood for some years past to yield such remunerative prices as formerly should induce owners of property to turn their attention to the utilisation of such natural products of the forests as vanilla, cohune nuts, and the resin of the pine trees, and to learn and apply the science of agriculture. It is rather a drawback that land is so plentiful and cheap that all who invest money in it seem to purchase more than they can profitably manage, but this condition has been induced by the fact that dependence having been almost solely placed on forest growths it has been customary to acquire as large an area as possible. The area of the Colony is 7,562 square miles, and only 4,394 of the population are engaged in agriculture. The transition to cultivation of the soil and the growth of plants finds the inhabitants unprepared for the altered conditions and unable at once to realise that the concentration of their energies on a small but properly organised and efficiently conducted plantation will pay better than the possession of large tracts of land imperfectly attended to or given up to impenetrable jungle. It may be hoped that the depression which has overtaken the Colony and which is only due to the fluctuation in price of dye-woods and mahogany may be the means of widening the base of the Colony's prosperity by compelling the inhabitants to resort to other sources for increasing their wealth.

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

During 1901 ten lots of land were sold, amounting in the aggregate to 506 acres. The price ranged from \$1.11½ to \$1.25 per acre. Five building lots in towns realised \$144.25.

Leases.

At the end of the year there were under lease 18,793 acres in 472 rural sections, an increase of 367 acres over 1900. These are distributed as follows:—

District.	Sections.	Acres.
Belize	69	4,421
Corosal	42	1,437
Orange Walk	21	152
Cayo	29	1,531
Stann Creek	81	2,850
Toledo	230	8,402
Total	472	18,793

The rents realised were about 15 cents. per acre. In addition there are a good many building lots in the towns of Stann Creek, Mullins River, and Punta Gorda, the rents of which are given up to the District Boards for local purposes.

The total revenue from Crown lands, including sales (\$928.73), amounted to \$7,720.77, while the expenditure of the Surveyor-General's Department amounted to \$6,391.40. The total amount of land alienated, principally by free grants but in recent years by sale, is about 2,778,440 acres, while the Crown lands amount to 1,957,959 acres.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1897	428	35,571	213	158,213
1898	409	32,037	209	151,295
1899	368	25,080	216	166,104
1900	338	24,371	214	146,546
1901	404	27,076	291	179,846

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1897	421	38,258	213	158,081
1898	401	30,214	208	150,338
1899	374	27,716	214	163,358
1900	320	22,919	214	146,261
1901	409	26,986	295	180,887

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1897	197	10,836	28	1,119	40	15,141
1898	179	10,309	28	472	30	11,959
1899	175	10,398	27	671	27	10,259
1900	124	8,617	51	990	26	10,334
1901	178	6,779	66	1,506	33	13,169

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1897	198	12,201	28	1,153	42	15,668
1898	184	10,186	27	428	30	11,716
1899	177	10,376	29	677	31	11,796
1900	129	8,774	44	841	24	9,479
1901	179	7,387	59	1,099	30	11,934

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1897	52	68,956	103	65,462	55	23,613
1898	80	84,415	54	34,603	70	31,365
1899	51	69,222	106	66,804	57	27,429
1900	35	51,666	104	56,627	69	33,905
1901	55	74,826	128	61,418	107	43,596

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons
1897	51	68,030	104	66,256	55	23,613
1898	79	83,533	54	34,663	70	31,392
1899	50	66,523	105	66,756	57	27,430
1900	36	51,423	103	56,586	69	35,904
1901	53	73,665	134	63,374	107	43,843

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year.

CUSTOMS.

Two relate to Customs (Import) Duties, one to Export Duties, and one to other Customs matters. Ordinances Nos. 1 and 13 consolidated the Ordinances relating to Customs (Import) Duties and fixed the *ad valorem* rate at 10 per cent. Ordinance No. 3 made some alteration in the procedure for valuing goods imported, empowered the Governor to authorise any warehoused goods *bonâ fide* intended for the service of any friendly foreign government, to be exported without requiring any security or bond, and gave the Collector of Customs power in special cases, when satisfied that the Revenue will run no risk, to authorise any warehoused goods to be exported to any place beyond the limits of the Colony without security or bond. Section 4 of the Ordinance also modified the penalty for importing prohibited goods.

Ordinance No. 20 enabled the Governor in Council to vary the export duties on mahogany and logwood, the rates not to exceed—

Mahogany per 1,000 superficial feet ...	$1.50
Logwood per ton	.50

The rates now collected are one half of the above.

LIGHT DUES.

Ordinance No. 16 enabled the Governor to exempt from Light Dues the transports or store ships of any friendly foreign government.

BANKRUPTCY.

Two Ordinances, Nos. 14 and 17, establish a Bankruptcy system in the Colony for the first time. These Ordinances which represent the most important enactment of the year, will, it is hoped, add to the security of trade and commerce in the Colony.

QUARANTINE.

Ordinance No. 4 amended the Quarantine Ordinance, 1894, and prescribed detention of five days in the case of cholera or yellow fever, and 14 days in the case of small-pox or bubonic plague.

AFFIRMATIONS.

Ordinance No. 6 provided for the making of affirmations instead of oaths in certain cases.

INTESTATE ESTATES OF CITIZENS OF UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Ordinance No. 12 enables the Consul of the United States of America to administer these estates in certain cases.

APPROPRIATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS.

Six Appropriation Ordinances were passed (the number being larger than usual in consequence of the alteration of the financial year) for the legal appropriation of the General Revenues and the funds of the District Boards during 1901.

SUNDRY.

The remaining four Ordinances relate to the appointment of the Chief Justice, the service of process issued out of District Courts, Pensions of Public Officers, and the Fire Rate of the town of Belize.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The grant-in-aid of education was increased during the year by $1,000 in order to provide for the opening of schools in certain places where no schools existed and where the children had no means of being educated. No system of industrial education has yet been commenced, and there are very great difficulties to be overcome before such a system could be efficiently applied, yet I think there can be no part of the world in which it is more essential. Boys are brought up in almost absolute idleness until they develop into adults strong enough to go into the forests and wield an axe, while girls have nothing more to do than sewing and perhaps general household work. Women do not hire for agricultural labour, and there are no factories in which their services could be utilised, so they perform very little work outside of their home circles. The principal schools are situated in the towns on the coast line, which is generally so flat that the land is usually too wet for agricultural purposes, and any other form of industrial training would be more costly than the Colony could afford, while under present conditions there is very little scope for the employment of tradesmen. Moreover, no form of industrial training can be undertaken until the services of competent teachers can be secured, and in the absence of any Training College these would have to be imported. The difficulty will no doubt have to be faced; but in the absence of any school tax or source of revenue for education purposes, except such sums as can with difficulty be spared out of General Revenues, and which can only be granted by curtailing necessary and urgent public works, such as the improvement of the internal land and water communications of the Colony, any increased expenditure for the purposes of education can not be regarded with equanimity.

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from 1897 to 1901.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
						$	$	$	$
1897 ...	49	3,693	2,705	73·24	190	14,162.17	2,880.97	11,961.87	5.23
1898 ...	45	3,728	2,606	69·90	190	14.449.50	2,793.25	15,540.11	5.52
1899 ...	42	3,547	2,491	70·23	186	11,637.26	2,479.49	10,126.58	4.67
1900 ...	38	3,391	2,383	70·30	188	11,245.53	2,312.53	9,101.38	4.76
1901 ...	36	3,423	2,328	68·01	189	12,030.08	2,230.	8,584.71	5.16

Government Grants and School Fees as received by each Denomination in 1901.

Schools.		Total Government Grants.	Total School Fees.	Proportion of Government Grant to School Fees.
		$	$	
Church of England	...	3,103.20	634.62	4.89
Roman Catholic ...	...	4,653.12	669.86	6.94
Wesleyan	...	3,142.83	650.42	4.83
Baptist	...	920.17	112.08	8.21
Non denominational	...	210.76	88.92	2.37
Totals ...	...	12,030.08	2,155.90	5.58

Numbers of, and Attendance by, Children according to Denominations in 1901.

Schools	Number of Children on Roll.	Average Attendance.	Total School Fees.	Receipt of School Fees per unit of Average Attendance.
			$	$
Church of England	847	527	634.62	1.20
Roman Catholic ...	1,343	998	669.86	.67
Wesleyan	913	595	650.42	1.09
Baptist	247	166	112.08	.67
Non-denominational	73	42	88.92	2.11
Totals ...	3,423	2,328	2,155.90	.93

The foregoing tables have reference to those schools only which receive Government aid; they are all primary.

There are a few unaided primary schools. These depend for support on the school fees collected and other sums received by way of voluntary contributions; usually, however, the school fees are the only receipts. As information touching these receipts has been given by but one school, it is not possible to state here the total amount collected. Their total number on the rolls is about 200 pupils with an average attendance of 150.

Secondary education is almost exclusively under the management of the churches. The schools receive no aid from Government, nor are they privately endowed. They depend for their support on the school fees collected, and, if these prove insufficient, the balance is made up from private subscriptions, which are usually obtained from persons outside of the Colony (the United States and Great Britain). In some instances the managers of these schools are not willing to give all the information asked for for the purpose of the Blue Book. The amount of school fees collected appears from the information given to have been about $6,000.00. The number of pupils on the rolls is about 300, with an average attendance of 250.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, and Poor-house.

The new wing of the Belize Hospital, capable of accommodating 24 beds, was opened for use.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1901:—

Institutions.	Remained at beginning of 1901.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1902.	Average Daily.
Belize Hospital ...	38	550	479	53	56	48·44
Corosal Hospital ...	2	100	79	15	8	6·77
Orange Walk Hospital	3	104	92	4	11	8·59
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	39	9	0	4	44	40·04
Poor-house ...	17	9	0	6	20	21·78

Savings Banks.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district; but there were no transactions at the Cayo during 1901 and no money at deposit. The savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had, at the end of the year 1901, 373 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December, 1901, was $46,470.35, as against $38,925.84, in 1900.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $42,424.62.

Friendly Societies.

It may here be mentioned that there are eight duly registered Friendly Societies in Belize, with whom 359 members are recorded as having invested $11,062.24, in addition to amounts held on current account to meet expenses and withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

The process of absorbing the British Honduras Constabulary Force into the Police force was nearly completed by the 31st December. The Cayo district was taken over in February and the Orange Walk district in July, while the strength of the Police force was increased from 76 to 96. At the end of the year only the Corosal district remained to be taken over, but all necessary arrangements had been made for this to be done and the strength of the Police force for the whole Colony authorised as one superintendent, two assistants, and 113 non-commissioned officers and men.

The discipline of the Force was good.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison, from 1897 to 1901:—

Year	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1897	290	57·98
1898	405	65·64
1899	263	53·67
1900	286	51·34
1901	321	45·31

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1901 was 1,441, against 1,742 in 1900 and 1,614 in 1899; whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was, in 1901, 947; in 1900, 1,209; in 1899, 1,136; and in 1898, 1,266.

Sixty-two persons were committed for trial in the Superior Courts. Of the 62 cases passed on to the Supreme Court, six fell through for want of prosecution; prisoners were found to be insane in two; judgment for the Crown was given in 37; and judgment for the prisoner in 17.

There were three convictions for murder, one for manslaughter, three for attempt at murder, one for rape, 16 for other offences against the person, 10 for offences against property, and three for miscellaneous offences. The capital sentence was executed in two cases.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The Census was taken on the 31st March, 1901, and the population returned as 19,140 males and 18,339 females, making a total of 37,479, an increase of 6,008 or 19 per cent. during the decade, as against an increase of 14·64 during the previous ten years.

The birth-rate for the year was 39·548 against a death-rate of 28·393 per mille.

The number of illegitimate births—642 out of a total of 1,489, shows no improvement on last year's record. There seems to be a tendency towards the increase of illegitimacy, the rates per cent. for the five years being as follows:—

1897	36·31
1898	37·51
1899	39·85
1900	42·08
1901	43·12

312 marriages took place during the year, being 27 less than in 1900.

The following table gives the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last ten years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1892 ...	1,219	38·73	372	1,282	40·73
1893 ...	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66
1894 ...	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895 ...	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42 208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810
1900 ...	1,478	39·948	339	890	24·055
1901 ...	1,489	39·548	312	1,069	28·393

(B.) Public Health.

The classification of the causes of death adopted by the Colonial Surgeon is as follows:—

	Per thousand.
Malarial fevers	9·428
Dysentery	1·593
Phthisis	0·903
Nervous diseases	2·841
Circulatory	0·982
Respiratory	1·726
Intestinal	1·965
Total death-rate of the Colony ...	28·393

It must, however, be borne in mind that only 29·84 per cent. were certified by medical practitioners.

There is apparently a marked difference in the salubrity of Stann Creek, Orange Walk, and Belize as compared with the other districts, judging by the following figures:—

Stann Creek, mortality per 1,000	...	20·653
Orange Walk ,,	...	23·957
Belize ,,	...	24·933
Toledo ,,	...	35·308
Corosal ,,	...	37·321
Cayo ,,	...	37·383

It is, however, quite probable that the very high mortality in Toledo, Corosal, and Cayo is to some extent attributable to the relatively large Indian population inhabiting these districts rather than to unhealthiness of climate, the Indians being a short-lived race and the deaths among them having exceeded the births by 38 during the year.

The diseases which caused the largest number of deaths were:—

——	Certified.	Uncertified.	Total.
Fever	29	325	354
Dysentery	26	34	60
Diarrhœa	17	29	46
Tetanus	17	1	18
Phthisis	9	3	32
Consumption		20	

There were 12 cases of deaths from drowning, two from snake-bite, and five from gunshot wounds. There has been no yellow fever or small pox in the Colony since 1892. Only 463 vaccinations took place during the year, a very small proportion of the children born—1,489.

There can, I think, be no doubt that the habits of the people are not conducive to longevity. A portion of the population is herded into towns or villages on the sea coast, restricted in area on account of the surrounding swamps, while for the greater part of the year the labouring population are out in the woods cut off from medical aid in case of illness or accident. If the people could be persuaded to settle on homesteads within a reasonable distance from the towns and use their leisure time and employ their children in growing foodstuffs and rearing stock and poultry, their health, comfort and material welfare would be greatly improved.

(C.) CLIMATE.

The statistics of temperature and rainfall are only available for Belize, which, being situated on the sea coast at the edge of a plain of very large extent is probably hotter and drier than many other parts of the Colony, though the large swamps in the vicinity of the town must add considerably to the humidity. The highest shade temperature in 1901 of 98·2 F. was recorded in March, and it was not until August that the maximum decreased to 89·9; but it rose again in September to 91·3, and was 90·2 in October. The lowest maximum was 85 in December and the minimum for the year of 50 occurred in the same month. The strong sea breezes which blow during the greater part of the year temper the heat, and by living in a draught night and day the inhabitants do not suffer so much as might be assumed from the readings of the thermometer. When the wind ceases, however, the heat becomes oppressive.

The rainfall for the year was 83·6 inches, the greatest fall in one month being 17·90 in September. The four months from February to May inclusive averaged 0·87 inch, that for May being only 0·59 and the average for the remaining eight months being just over 10 inches. It rained on 116 days. The rainfall was less than that of the preceding year by 30½ inches, but was not exceptional, as will be observed from the appended table:—

Year.	Rainfall in Inches.	No. of Days.
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116

MISCELLANEOUS NUMERICAL RETURNS.

The most noticeable feature disclosed by these returns is that only 5½ per cent. of the inhabitants pay any direct taxes, and that in many cases freeholders pay no taxes. This would appear to be due to the exemption of property under $35 in annual value by chapter 97 of the Consolidated Laws. A proprietary class owing no obligation to the State, which has to provide roads, police protection, and medical relief seems an anomaly. The position is even more accentuated in the towns where the rates collected from the other inhabitants have to be disbursed in scavenging, in addition to other services, for this class.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for 1901 was $9,875.50.

The total expenditure of $24,074.34 was distributed as follows:—

	$	$
Extra Colonial:—		
Subsidy	14,499.96	
Transit dues	409.10	
		14,909.06
Intra Colonial:—		
Salaries and wages	2,769.97	
Northern subsidy	5,400.00	
Southern subsidy	448.00	
Various services	547.31	
		9,165.28
Total		24.074.34

The number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad from 1897 to 1901 was as follows:—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Ordinary letters ...	132,672	118,552	124,847	141,860	138,359
Registered letters ...	4,755	4,670	4,828	8,268	8,932
Post-cards	2,730	2,943	2,907	4,271	4,591
Newspapers, books, &c.	94,121	93,574	86,486	97,989	91,748
Postal parcels... ...	1,226	1,343	1,672	2,063	2,064

The number of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.
Letters	53,313	56,860	56,619	58,579	61,842
Post-cards	487	1,090	752	1,279	1,281
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	5,656	7,869	6,956	8,113	9,702

The transactions in connection with the money-order system from 1897 to 1901 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, &c.

Year.	Amount. £	s.	d.
1897	1,043	15	4
1898	1,336	17	10
1899	1,228	2	10
1900	1,439	2	3
1901	1,198	11	10

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	2,289.13
1900	3,461.68
1901	3,065.30

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1897	331	1	0
1898	246	10	0
1899	182	12	5
1900	282	6	2
1901	215	10	2

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	807.97
1900	832.14
1901	831.06

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEERS.

This force continued to progress favourably throughout the year. The strength on 31st December, 1901, was eight officers and 183 non-commissioned officers and men.

The force received a welcome present from the Belize Estate and Produce Company in the shape of a Maxim gun.

The total expenditure for the year was $2,840.45.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Important Events.

The most important events of 1901 would appear to have been:—

The lightening of taxation by the reversion from 12½ per cent. to 10 per cent. of the *ad valorem* duties on imports, and the decrease by 50 per cent. of the export duties.

The change of the financial year, which formerly ran concurrently with the calendar year but now runs from 1st April to 31st March.

The appointment of a Land Tax Commission having for its object the remodelling of the Land Tax "so as to do away with or avoid any inequalities of its incidence, and at the same time to secure to the General Revenue of this Colony an annual sum of not less than twenty-five thousand dollars." A tax of nine-tenths of a cent. per acre on the 2,778,440 acres of land alienated would be necessary to yield this sum. The report was not received until after the close of the year.

The death of Queen Victoria was as much felt here as in Her Majesty's other Colonial possessions. It is probable that no ruler has ever hitherto succeeded in casting so strong a spell on her subjects dwelling thousands of miles beyond the seas. Confidence in her justice and beneficence was so great that it had become an implicit and unreasoning article of faith that nothing could emanate from her but what was good, wise and kindly. The accession of King Edward was celebrated with becoming ceremony here, and His Majesty succeeded to a throne held in reverence and profound respect and love by all classes of his colonial subjects.

Mr. F. J. Newton, C.M.G., relinquished the office of Colonial Secretary here on 1st November last to assume a similar appointment in Barbados.

(B.) Public Works.

The wing to the Belize Public Hospital commenced in 1900 was completed during the year. The survey of a route from Belize *viâ* Orange Walk and Corosal for the erection of a telegraph line to connect with the Mexican system in Yucatan was undertaken and carried through as far as the last-named town.

No other extraordinary public works were commenced.

(C) Future Prospects. Openings for Labour and Capital. Cost of Labour and of Living. Social and General Conditions.

The resources of this Colony are so considerable that it is marvellous that much greater development has not taken place than is shown by the returns. At least four rivers could be made navigable for light draught steamers for considerable distances inland, and a dozen for canoes or doreys. The Hondo, New River, and Sarstoon are already being used to some extent for navigation by moderately large craft, but their utility might be increased. Mahogany, logwood, vanilla, cacao, rubber (Castilloa Elastica), sapodilla (from which "chicle" or chewing gum is prepared), and pimento or allspice are indigenous, and pine trees and various hardwoods are present in great abundance. The soil in many large areas is peculiarly suitable for the growth of the sugar cane, and factories of very large size could be established if capital were forthcoming. Bananas, oranges, pineapples, rice, and maize are only a few of the products which grow luxuriantly. The bounteousness of nature seems to have made existence so easy in the past that the inhabitants have not been spurred to exertion by necessity, and have lived almost solely by cutting mahogany and logwood, found in the forests, which are then floated down the rivers. Attempts have been made within recent years to cultivate bananas, but cultivation is hampered by want of agricultural knowledge on the part of the land owners and the difficulty of obtaining labourers accustomed to any other kind of labour than that of wood-cutting. The cultivation of cacao is being attempted, but has not yet expanded to any considerable extent. Before agriculture can be expected to become a thriving industry, it will be necessary to facilitate transport by improving the navigation of the rivers and by making good cart roads or tramways leading to the rivers or the sea coast; this is especially necessary in the case of banana cultivation, the fruit being perishable and needing great care in handling. Communication by telegraph or telephone will also be necessary if a thriving business is to be carried on. No use is at present being made of the vanilla, pimento, or lumber (other than mahogany, cedar and logwood). Vanilla grows so luxuriantly that frequently when riding along the roads through the forests the rider has to lop off the overhanging vines with his machete in order to secure free passage. There seems good reason to believe that a lucrative industry could be established in the production of the bean if attention were paid to the matter. Another natural product of the forest at present almost entirely wasted is the cohune nut which yields the finest oil for table and other purposes while the refuse might be suitable for food for stock. Immense quantities at present go to waste.

The intelligent expenditure of capital in this vast store-house of natural wealth might be expected to yield very large profits, but it seems to be a rule that in countries where the climate is most rigorous and the conditions of life hardest, the necessities of the situation spur human beings to the greatest exertion and sharpen their wits to cope with their environment, while the opposite effect is produced when nature is bounteous. This doubtless accounts in a great measure for the prosperity of the British possessions in the North and the relative backwardness of those towards the South on this Continent.

There is more than sufficient labour for the principal industry of the Colony—wood-cutting—because most of the accessible mahogany and logwood has already been cut and the transition to other industries will be slow, but the Colony is capable of supporting at least a couple of million inhabitants instead of only 37,479 who now occupy a fringe of the coast line and the banks of the principal rivers. With an area equal to that of the Principality of Wales and much virgin soil of great fertility there is no good reason why this Colony should any longer remain in its present backward condition.

The Public Debt is only £34,735, incurred solely for the improvement of Belize, and against this the investments of the Sinking Funds amounted to £10,420 on 31st December, leaving a net liability of £24,315; the annual debt charge being £2,286, of which £500 is refunded by the town of Belize out of local funds. There was a surplus of $61,636 at credit of General Revenues on 31st March, 1901, which has been increased since, and at the date of this report amounts to over $76,000. The average revenue and expenditure for the five years ended 31st December, 1900, were $286,318 and $280,579 respectively, but though the receipts have since fallen off the ordinary expenditure has also been decreased. The present financial position of the Government is fairly strong, but as a set-off trade is stagnant and the revenues decreasing. Appearances seem to indicate that the ordinary expenses of Government need not exceed $245,000 per annum and that in the immediate future all receipts in excess of this amount may be devoted to the improvement of the waterways and the construction of tramways or roadways in the Colony and their maintenance in proper condition. These measures would probably have the effect of stimulating trade and agriculture and possibly of affording some assistance to the wood-cutting industry. For many years past a project for building a railway has been under discussion, but I greatly regret that after carefully studying the plans and estimates and traversing the greater part of the projected route I have come to the conclusion that the scheme in its present shape is impracticable, as being beyond the resources of the Colony and too costly to yield a return on the outlay unless great modifications are found to be possible in the cost of construction, or unless other sources of revenue can be discovered to assist the undertaking.

The price of labour is, as may be expected, decreasing. The contracts made for 1902 show wages: for woodcutters, $8.00 to $10.00 per month with food and house accommodation; for agricultural labourers, $6.50 to $8.00 per month with food and house accommodation. The woodcutters are efficient, but only work from four to six hours a day. Agricultural labourers are generally raw hands and no labour-saving implements are in use.

The social conditions of the general body of the people are not conducive to the effective settlement of the country. Over 40 per cent. of the inhabitants were residents of the six principal townships on 31st March, 1901, when the Census was taken, and a considerable number lived in villages. These represent the comparatively small number of men employed in the towns and villages and the women and children who perform little or no labour, the men being mostly absent in the woods cutting timber beyond the reach of medical aid or efficient care when ill. About 20 per cent. of the population consists of Indians who are of nomadic habit, living principally on maize, a crop which is planted and reaped within 5 or 6 months, and who reside in crazy huts built of sticks and thatch. These people move from place to place and apparently have no inclination to settle long in one spot and improve it. The genuine labourers are a mere fraction of the population and they work shorter hours than labourers in any part of the world of which I have experience. In the months of November and December the woodcutters, and even the plantation labourers draw the balance of their wages for the year, and come flocking into the towns, where they spend it, I fear too often for the prosperity of the Colony, in riotous living. In December and January they enter into new engagements, obtain advances on account of the year's wages, and go again into the woods to cut timber. There is no home life, no steady and permanent improvement of their condition and surroundings, and little or no provision for old age. The circumstances necessary for the building up of a respectable class of peasant proprietors can hardly be said to exist, and until this is accomplished the prosperity of the country will not be on a firm and stable basis. At the date of the Census there were 276 persons owning less than 10 acres of land, 291 between 10 and 640 acres and 41 above 640 acres. The 41 large landowners, of whom 12 possess 3,246½ square miles, may be said to hold the fortunes of British Honduras in the hollow of their hands. The measures which may be expected to bring about improvement are, immigration of a class of people accustomed to agriculture, the spread of agricultural knowledge amongst the mass of the people, and their gradual settlement on Crown lands, accompanied by the provision of adequate and suitable means of communication, which, as I have pointed out can be secured by keeping the waterways clear of obstruction and constructing roads or tramways and telephones or telegraphs out of our surplus revenue. Persistent and sustained effort for a few years on a settled plan would make British Honduras a prosperous Colony. The most urgent need of the moment is the presence of a few intelligent men with moderate capital, having knowledge of tropical agriculture, the determination to succeed, and the wit to make use of the natural resources ready to their hands.

P. C. Cork, Colonial Secretary.

26th July, 1902.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 390.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1902.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 362.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
July, 1903.

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COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
366	Fiji	1901
367	Ceylon	"
368	Barbados	1901–1902
369	Hong Kong	1901
370	Cocos Islands	1902
371	St. Helena	1901
372	British Solomon Islands	1901–1902
373	Jamaica	"
374	Leeward Islands	"
375	Gold Coast	1901
376	Grenada	"
377	Northern Nigeria	"
378	British Guiana	1901–1902
379	Mauritius	1901
380	Basutoland	1901–1902
381	Southern Nigeria	1901
382	Trinidad and Tobago	1901–1902
383	Bermuda	1902
384	St. Lucia	1901
385	St. Vincent	"
386	Falkland Islands	1902
387	Gibraltar	"
388	Wei-Hai-Wei	"
389	Sierra Leone	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
1	Gold Coast	Economic Agriculture.
2	Zululand	Forests.
3	Sierra Leone	Geology and Botany.
4	Canada	Emigration.
5	Bahamas	Sisal Industry.
6	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague
7	Newfoundland	Mineral Resources.
8	Western Pacific	British Solomon Islands.
9	Dominica	Agriculture.
10	Virgin Islands	Condition during 1897.
11	Grenada	Agriculture in Carriacou.
12	Anguilla	Vital Statistics, 1898.
13	Cook Islands	Trade, 1899.
14	Bahamas	Fibre Industry.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900.
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
20	Wei-Hai-Wei...	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.

No. 390.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1901, *see* No. 362.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR CORK to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

Government House, Belize,
10th June, 1903.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1902.

I have, &c.,

P. C. CORK,
Administering the Government.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1902.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns are for the year ended 31st March, 1902, while the other returns are for the calendar year 1902.

On the 1st April, 1901, the surplus on the General Revenue Account of the Colony was $61,635.62.

(A.) Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements show the Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1900-1 and 1901-2 under each head of revenue and service respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1900–1901	1901–1902.
	$	$
1. Customs	174,941.13	154,859.53
2. Light Dues	5,871.38	5,827.50
3. Internal Taxation	64,347.09	56,251.90
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	10,108.17	8,132.98
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	19,948.98	19,252.06
6. Postal Revenue	10,021.98	10,941.36
7. Interest	2,249.39	1,815.88
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	200.16	119.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	2,206.73	3,976.46
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	289,895.01	261,177.21
10. Sale of Crown Lands	2,794.27	965.47
11. Supply of Silver Coins	—	10,000.00
Total General Revenue ...	292,689.28	272,142.68
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	24,974.56	27,861.11
Corosal District	2,972.44	2,646.39
Orange Walk District	2,490.20	2,216.45
Stann Creek District	2,401.06	1,862.86
Toledo District	1,704.86	1,688.20
Cayo District	679.50	456.75
Total Local Revenue ...	35,222.62	36,731.76
Grand Total	327,911.90	308,874.44

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1900–1901.	1901-1902.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	11,128.21	11,190.64
2. Pensions	5,207.72	6,344.74
3. Governor	11,480.36	10,486.11
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	9,289.88	8,685.69
5. Treasury and Custom House	15,326.59	15,700.56
6. Audit Department	2,228.89	2,197.46
7. Post Office	24,079.42	21,654.28
8. Judicial	13,310.26	14,102.07
9. District Commissioners	15,647.64	15,498.42
10. Constabulary	26,267.00	8,576.32
11. Police	24,363.14	32,824.47
12. Belize Volunteer Force	1,677.98	3,354.66
13. Prisons	12,870.00	12,728.55
14. Medical Department	25,377.60	27,214.60
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	50.50	114.28
16. Education...	14,729.89	14,420.48
17. Ecclesiastical	437.40	437.40
18. Surveyor-General's Department ...	7,401.18	6,970.79
19. Botanic Station	1,704.03	1,754.85
20. Miscellaneous	4,178.69	7,861.40
21. Lighthouses, &c....	3,873.37	3,968.55
22. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,183.40	3,248.10
23. Public Works Recurrent	11,499.52	17,482.80
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	245,372.65	246,817.22
24. Public Works Extraordinary	3,813.85	5,863.49
25. Supply of Silver Coins	—	4,229.96
Total General Expenditure ...	249,186.50	256,910.67
Local Expenditure :—		
Belize District	26,882.13	25,620.94
Corosal District	3,585.83	3,137.69
Orange Walk District	2,688.55	2,547.26
Stann Creek District	4,005.94	2,163.49
Toledo District	1,209.43	1,331.45
Cayo District	452.11	645.39
Total Local Expenditure ...	38,823.99	35,446.22
Grand Total	288,010.49	292,356.89

The following is a statement of the Revenue and Expenditure for the five years 1898 to 1901-2 inclusive, with notes of points of special interest attached:—

General Revenue.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1898	274,690	Includes $1,250 Surplus Stock Savings Bank Investments, $2,041 Insurance on Stores Lost at Sea, $1,009 Refund of Cost of Survey on Lands.
1899	250,458	Includes $13,342 Export Duty on Mahogany and Logwood from July.
1900	289,727	Includes the same Export Duty as in 1899, amounting to $22,251, and an increase from 10 to 12½ per cent. on ad valorem goods from the 23rd June.
1900–1	292,689	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	272,142	Includes $10,000 Silver Coin.

General Expenditure.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1898	301,413	Includes $36,865 on Roads, Bridges, and New Works.
1899	262,413	Includes $3,228 for Official Residence at the Cayo.
1900	246,201	Includes $2,229 for New Wing to the Belize Hospital.
1900–1	249,186	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	256,910	Includes $4,229 cost of of Silver Coins.

Comparative return of local revenue and expenditure.

Revenue.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1898	27,648	3,592	3,545	2,664	1,319	717	39,485
1899	27,200	3,154	2,602	2,578	578	754	36,866
1900	25,396	3,100	2,836	2,472	1,590	492	35,886
1900–1	24,975	2,972	2,490	2,401	1,705	679	35,222
1901–2	27,861	2,646	2,216	1,863	1,688	457	36,732

Expenditure.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1898	27,143	3,678	3,923	2,340	1,192	931	39,207
1899	28,312	3,190	4,132	1,023	694	1,192	38,543
1900	25,222	2,998	2,846	4,133	1,753	428	37,380
1900-1	26,882	3,586	2,689	4,006	1,209	452	38,824
1901-2	25,621	3,138	2,547	2,163	1,331	645	35,446

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

None have taken place.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1902, in respect of its Assets and Liabilities is shown in the following table:—

General Revenues.

—	1900-1.	1901-2.
	$	$
Assets	123,821.99	139,128.49
Liabilities	62,186.37	62,260.86
Excess of Assets	61,635.62	76,867.63

At the end of the calendar year 1902 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $82,155.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the Loan Debt of the Colony on 31st March, 1902:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1887...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1891...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

These loans were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize, and half the interest and Sinking Funds, in respect of the loans of 1885 and 1887, are repaid out of the local funds to General Revenues. The Sinking Fund of the loan of 1885 will require no further contributions, as the amount now at credit, if left to accumulate at compound interest at the rate of 3 per cent., will amount to more than will be necessary to pay off the liability when it becomes due for repayment in 1916. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has therefore been enacted, discontinuing the contributions.

Provision for payment has been made by the investment of the Sinking Funds as set forth in the next table:—

		£	s.	d.
Loan of 1885—repayable 1916.	$27,875=£5,735 12s. ...	4,142	19	3
Loan of 1887—repayable 1918.	£9,000	3,193	4	10
Loan of 1891—repayable 1923.	£20,000	3,729	7	11
Total Sinking Funds	... ...	11,065	12	0

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America—the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $110,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
104,500	50	52,250
155,000	25	38,750
126,000	10	12,600
128,000	5	6,400
513,500	—	110,000

There is also a bronze cent piece, the amount in circulation being 150,000 pieces.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894, currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The amount in notes in circulation on the 31st March, 1902, was $81,741; and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in the Colony $41,864, $39,895 having been remitted for investment in England.

(F.) DEBTS OF LOCAL BOARDS.

The Boards have not been authorised to contract loans, and the only local debt is a sum of $1,900.60, being the balance due by the Belize District Board on account of an advance made to this Board out of General Revenues for the construction of an iron bridge over the Belize River. The Board made provision in the estimates for the repayment of this amount in 1902-3. The annual payment made by the same Board to General Revenues in refund of half the interest on the Town and Harbour Improvements Loan of 1885, and half the interest and Sinking Fund of the loan of 1887, amounts to $2,120.89.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the Imports and Exports of the Colony for the years 1896 to 1902:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473
1900 ...	376,172	2,069	708,403	112,128	1,198,772
1901 ...	373,506	3,941	731,137	118,618	1,227,202
1902 ...	337,300	920	662,624	226,959	1,227,803

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593
1899 ...	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617
1900 ...	613,565	—	352,358	334,642	1,300,565
1901 ...	635,913	—	595,285	156,400	1,387,598
1902 ...	417,262	—	723,059	221,889	1,362,210

The total Imports during the year amounted to $1,227,803 as against $1,227,202 for 1901.

(2.) The following table shows the Countries from whence the Colony obtained its supplies, as compared with 1901.

—	1902.	1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	337,300.00	373,506.00	—	36,206.00
United States... ...	662,634.00	731,137.00	—	68,513.00
Mexico	143,248.00	21,226.00	122,022.00	—
Spanish Honduras ...	49,792.00	66,395.00	—	16,603.00
Guatemala	13,079.00	10,134.00	2,945.00	—
Germany	14,615.00	10,812 00	3,803.00	—
British Colonies ...	920.00	3,941.00	—	3,021.00
Other Countries ...	6,225.00	10,051.00	—	3,826.00

(3.) The Imports, as shown above, included bullion and coin received from the following countries, viz.:—

—	1902.	1901.
	$	$
United States	61,699	17,000
Mexico	130,444	8,218
Honduras	7,920	1,150
Guatemala	7,455	3,738

The value of articles of consumption and manufactured goods imported was, therefore, $177,412 less than for the corresponding period ended 31st December, 1901.

(4.) The principal items of import were:—

Articles.	Value.
	$
Bacon and Hams	16,483
Boots and Shoes	41,553
Butter	21,185
Clothing	16,154
Cheese	10,979
Cotton goods	150,672
Drugs and Chemicals ...	19,823
Flour...	67,984
Hardware and Cutlery ...	32,514
Hats	13,696
Hay and Oats	5,345
Iron Roofing	9,623
Lard	12,488
Paints	6,656
Perfumery	7,671

Imports—cont.

Articles.	Value.
	$
Provisions (Canned) ...	129,581
Rice	24,503
Rope and Twine	13,782
Soap	25,793
Woollen goods	10.550
Beef and Pork	74,872
Beer, Porter, &c.	18,843
Lumber	15,950
Oil (mineral)	20,705
Whiskey	8,382
Tobacco (raw)	10,764
Wines	10,350
Cattle	30,248
Fish (salted)	6,120
Vegetables	7,108

(5.) Of the above articles, the following were obtained from the United Kingdom, viz.:—

Articles.	Obtained.	Out of a Total of
	$	$
Clothing...	11,856	16,154
Cotton goods	70,789	150,672
Drugs, &c.	3,197	19,823
Hardware, &c.	15,762	32,514
Hats	6,452	13,696
Paints, &c.	5,500	6,656
Provisions	60,655	129,581
Rice	24,150	24,503
Rope	5,452	13,782
Soap	22,876	25,793
Woollen goods	10,301	10,550
Beer	6,051	18,843
Whiskey...	6,073	8,382

the United States supplies with a few exceptions the balance.

(6.) In this connection it is noted that no supplies, except some salted fish, were obtained from Canada, such as butter, cheese, flour, pork, beef, lumber, &c., and that even such articles as cotton goods, hardware, boots and shoes, canned provisions, rope, &c., beer and porter, drugs and chemicals are being obtained in larger quantities every year from the United States.

(7.) The export of articles grown and produced in the Colony amounted to $811,772, and was made up principally of the items shown in the following table:—

Article.		1902.		1901.		Increase.	Decrease.
		Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
			$		$	$	$
Bananas	Bchs.	438,200	107,805	538,751	152,514	—	44,709
Cocoanuts	No.	3,767,175	36,865	3,265,357	41,114	—	4,249
Cocoa	Lbs.	1,078	194	665	131	63	—
Plantains	No.	1,624,310	13,168	1,883,450	14,988	—	1.820
Mahogany (local)	Ft.	5,851,621	314,909	5,970,928	315.938	—	1,029
„ (foreign)	„	192,200	11,749	515,024	43,282	—	31,533
Cedar (local)	„	413,256	20,459	414,254	20,545	—	86
„ (foreign)	„	73,100	4,201	6,977	432	3.769	—
Logwood (local)	Tons.	12,417	241,622	16,355	301,058	—	59,436
„ (foreign)	„	2,783	60,744	3,327	75,511	—	14,767
Rosewood	„	59	530	—	599	—	69
Rubber	Lbs.	30,338	14,163	44,044	23 237	—	9,074
Sapodilla Gum (local)	„	249,686	37,698	136,391	24,342	13,356	—
„ „ (foreign)	„	3,247	487		—	487	—
Sarsaparilla	„	2,797	688	7,515	737	—	49
Hides and Skins (local)	„	55,601	4,962	64,650	5.494	—	532
„ „ (foreign)... ...	„	10,318	1,056	—	—	1.056	—
Sponges	„	7,663	1,536	10,785	2,553	—	1,017
Tortoise Shell	„	3,278	14,335	2,971	14,562	—	227

(8.) The following tables will no doubt be found of some interest:—

—	Exports, 1902.	Exports, 1901.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Ft.	Ft.		
Cedar	486,356	421,231	65,125	—
	Tons.	Tons.		
Logwood	15,200	19,682	—	4,482
	Ft.	Ft.		
Mahogany	6,043,821	6,485,952	—	442,131
	lbs.	lbs.		
Rubber	30,338	44,044	—	13,706
Sapodilla Gum	252,933	136,391	116,542	—
Sponges	7 663	10,785	—	3,122
Tortoise shell	3,279	2,971	308	—
	Bchs.	Bchs.		
Bananas	438,200	538,751	—	100,551
	No.	No.		
Plantains	1,624,310	1,883,450	—	259,140
	lbs.	lbs.		
Sarsaparilla	2,797	7,515	—	4,718
	No.	No.		
Cocoanuts	3,767,175	3,265,357	501,818	—
	lbs.	lbs.		
Hides, &c.	65,919	64,650	1,269	—

(9.) From the above it will be seen that there was not only a considerable shrinkage in the quantity of forest products, but also in the quantity of fruit exported.

(10.) The produce of the Colony was taken by the following Countries:—

Articles.	Value.
United States—	$
Bananas	107,723
Plantains	13,013
Rubber	12,466
Cocoanuts...	36,858
Sapodilla Gum	37,698
Sponges	1,449
Cedar	13,358
Mahogany	111,027
Hides, &c.	4,962

Produce taken by the following Countries—cont.

Articles.	Value.
United Kingdom—	
Cedar	6,929
Logwood	153,180
Mahogany	199,666
Tortoise Shell	14,135
Rubber	1,697
Sarsaparilla	678
Germany—	$
Logwood	25,039
Russia—	
Logwood	17,888
France—	
Logwood	35,564
Mahogany	4,216
Cedar	172
Holland—	
Logwood	9,861

(11.) In addition to the export of the produce of the Colony, which amounted to $811,772, as shown in paragraph 7, further exports were made amounting to $550,438, bringing the total export trade of the Colony up to $1,362,210 for the year.

(12.) The principal items of British and Foreign produce so exported were:—

Articles.	Value.
	$
Bullion and Coin	390,568
Beef and Pork	458
Beer	7,009
Cotton Goods	15,568
Hardware	4,098
Iron Roofing	3,164
Lumber	871
Provisions	19,398
Flour	1,971
Rice	1,817
Salt	2,646
Soap	2,309
Cedar	4,201
Logwood	60,744
Mahogany	11,749
Rubber	14,163

The most important feature of the lumber trade of the year has been the increase of exports to the United States of mahogany and cedar. The figures, showing the development of the demand for mahogany are instructive, as indicating that it is quite of recent date, and has only materially affected the exports within the past twelve months.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	ft.	$
1891	—	—
1892	—	—
1893	—	—
1894	1,868	93
1895	—	—
1896	20,462	1,322
1897	2,575	130
1898	39,316	2,454
1899	19,476	1,362
1900	178,326	11,881
1901	364,724	16,957
1902	2,226,337	111,027

The exports of cedar to the United States increased from 131,643 feet, value $6,662, in 1901 to 271,341 feet, value $13,358, in 1902. Moreover, whereas the mahogany and cedar logs have to be squared for the home market, they are shipped in their natural state to the United States, and the cost of squaring is saved to the vendor, and he loses nothing from re-measurement, his wood being bought and paid for on the spot. This means that less capital than formerly is required in the business, and the result is that wood cutters are exploiting new districts hitherto untouched. The trade with England has greatly fallen off, having decreased since last year by 1,846,780 feet, as shown below:—

——	1901.	1902.	Decrease.
	ft.	ft.	ft.
Colonial Mahogany exported to England.	5,390,871	3,547,120	1,843,751
Foreign Mahogany exported to England.	195,249	192,220	3,029
Total	5,586,120	3,739,340	1,846,780

The mahogany trade with France has also fallen from 215,333 feet in 1901 to 78,164 feet in 1902.

The total exports of colonial mahogany which were 5,970,928 feet in 1901, fell to 5,851,621 in 1902, a decrease of 119,307 feet, the falling off in foreign wood of 322,824 feet making the total decrease in the trade 442,131 feet. This result is much better than could have been anticipated when the year commenced, as the outlook was then very gloomy.

The export of logwood has continued to decline and touched the low figure of 15,200 tons, of which 2,783 tons was foreign wood. The total value is returned as $302,366. Since 1896 the trade has decreased by over half a million dollars, owing to unremunerative prices.

Bananas have decreased $44,709 as compared with 1901, due to absence of competition which obtained in that year. Notwithstanding the decrease, this is at present a most hopeful industry, though needing for its full development efficient means of transport, which it is hoped may be gradually provided, and telephonic communication, the establishment of which is under consideration.

The shipment of cocoanuts increased, but has unfortunately been counterbalanced by decrease of price. This can probably be counteracted by producing copra when the price of cocoanuts is low, and it is to be hoped that producers will recognise this, and also take steps for utilising the small nuts.

The production of rubber was 13,706 lbs. less than in 1901, and the value $9,074 less.

On the whole, the year 1902 showed a general decline of production, except in sapodilla gum, and one or two comparatively unimportant items. During the first eight months, indeed, a most severe depression took place, and the revival, which commenced in September, rescued the Colony from grave difficulties. Fortunately the public finances were in a healthy condition, and no anxiety was felt on that account, but there can be no doubt that business was for a time almost at a standstill. The year which commenced with despondency ended hopefully, and with a generally improved tone in business and industrial circles.

(B.) Mines, Manufactures, and Fisheries.

There are no mines being worked.

The returns show two steam sugar mills with stills at Orange Walk, and four steam sugar mills and one still, also 10 cattle mills, at Toledo; at the Cayo, 13 cattle sugar mills, two stills, and one coffee mill. No sugar is exported, but 1,701 half-gallons of rum were shipped to Honduras.

There is a sponge fishery, and the export during the year amounted to 7,663 lbs., valued at $1,536. A few turtle and fish are caught by native fishermen to supply the local markets.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

The year has been one of preparation in this Department. The Botanic Station is unsuited to the needs of the Colony, and a change is very necessary, but an unsuitable one would hinder, instead of helping, the object in view. Various suggestions have been made, the more impatient section of the community wishing to altogether abandon the neighbourhood of the capital of the Colony as a centre of agricultural instruction, and to start a station in a comparatively remote place, to which access is only possible by a sea voyage to all but the inhabitants of the immediate neighbourhood, which is sparsely populated. The Government has, however, considered it advisable to first survey the country around Belize, to see if a good driving road out of the town can be made at a reasonable cost. If this proves feasible, it would be prudent to establish a station at the nearest point from the town at which suitable land can be secured, Belize being the most thickly populated town and receiving the largest number of visitors from the other districts. The question of the road has been held in abeyance pending the appointment of an Advisory Engineer, whose services are to be engaged in reporting on this and other measures for the development of the Colony, and in executing such works as are decided on.

A Society of Agriculture and Commerce has been started under the Presidency of the Governor, and with the cordial support of the Government, for the purpose of discussing agricultural and commercial matters, and of awakening interest in these subjects, and the Governor has, by notification in the Gazette, placed the services of the Superintendent of the Botanic Station at the disposal of any ten planters or cultivators of the soil who make application for them for the purposes of instruction and demonstration.

Two small Nurseries for the growth and distribution of economic plants have been started, one at Corosal (North) and one at Stann Creek (South), and these it is hoped to gradually develop as the agricultural interests increase.

There are gratifying indications that these measures are appreciated by the small land holders especially, and every anticipation that they will be instrumental in increasing the general prosperity.

The Society of Agriculture and Commerce held several meetings, issued leaflets on the cultivation and preparation of rubber and vanilla, appointed a Committee to investigate the cocoanut disease, purchased and distributed numbers of the publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture dealing with the cultivation of bananas and the various other economic products respecting which investigations are being conducted, and opened communication with the Cotton Growers' Association for the purpose of endeavouring to start a cotton industry in the Colony.

It is also intended to start a Journal as soon as possible, in which matters will be discussed from a local point of view. The Society is now making enquiries about a machine to separate the shell from the kernel of the cohune nut in the hope that a large export trade in kernels may be built up. The nut is a natural product of the forests where very large quantities are procurable, and expert examination at the Imperial Institute shows that it contains 40 per cent. of oil. I am glad to say that several small parcels have been exported, and that enquiries have been received from England by several persons in the Colony, which it is hoped will result in considerable business being done in the near future.

The number of plants distributed from the Botanic Station during the past two years was as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.
Cacao	1,550	3,720
Coffee	860	705
Nutmegs	559	—
Rubber	400	4,900
Logwood	2,400	—
Various; fruits	278	83
„ ornamental ...	777	723
	6,824	10,131
Rice seeds	8 packets.	—

(D.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

During 1902 ten lots of land were sold, amounting in the aggregate to 545 quarter-acres. Five building lots in towns were also alienated. The standard price of Crown land in rural areas continues at $1 per acre.

Leases.

At the end of the year there were under lease 19,757 acres in 493 rural sections, an increase of 964 acres over 1901. These are distributed as follows:—

District.	Sections.	Acres.
Belize	82	4,978
Corosal	42	1,437
Orange Walk	24	169
Cayo	27	1,535
Stann Creek	89	3,314
Toledo	229	8,324
Total	493	19,757

The rents realised were about 15 cents per acre. In addition, there are a good many building lots in the towns of Stann

Creek, Mullins River, and Punta Gorda, the rents of which are given up to the District Boards for local purposes.

The total revenue from Crown lands, including sales ($606.13), amounted to $13,678.23. The total amount of land alienated, principally by free grants, but in recent years by sale, is about 2,778,985 acres, while the Crown lands amount to 1,957,414 acres.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1898	409	32,037	209	151,295
1899	368	25,080	216	166,104
1900	333	24,371	214	146,546
1901	404	27,076	291	179,846
1902	523	18,472	263	189,643

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1898	401	30,214	208	150,338
1899	374	27,716	214	163,358
1900	320	22,919	214	146,261
1901	409	26,986	295	180,887
1902	508	19,662	265	188,643

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1898	179	10,309	28	472	30	11,959
1899	175	10,398	27	671	27	10,259
1900	124	8,617	51	390	26	10,334
1901	178	6,779	66	1,506	33	13,169
1902	322	7,051	52	774	18	7,211

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1898	184	10,186	27	428	30	11,716
1899	177	10,376	29	677	31	11,796
1900	129	8,774	44	841	24	9,479
1901	179	7,387	59	1,099	30	11,934
1902	330	6.678	30	603	21	8,560

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1898	80	84,415	54	34,603	70	31,365
1899	51	69,222	106	66,804	57	27,429
1900	35	51,666	104	56.627	69	33,905
1901	55	74,826	128	61,418	107	43,596
1902	66	92,876	102	55,259	95	41,508

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons
1898	79	83,533	54	34,663	70	31,392
1899	50	66,523	105	66,756	57	27,430
1900	36	51,423	103	56,586	69	35,904
1901	53	73,665	134	63,374	107	43,843
1902	69	94,124	100	52,689	95	41,825

III.—LEGISLATION.

Fifteen Ordinances were passed during the year.

CUSTOMS AND SHIPPING.

Ordinance No. 9 provides for the storage of goods of a combustible, inflammable, or perishable nature in warehouses approved by the Collector of Customs.

Ordinance No. 1 reduces the fees demandable by and payable to the Registrar of Shipping and the Surveyor of British Ships in the case of a ship of not more than five tons to one-fourth, and of a ship of more than five tons but not more than ten, to one half the fees specified in Schedule A and B to Chapter 54 of the Consolidated Laws.

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Ordinance No. 14 makes further provision for preventing the spread of infectious disease.

FINANCIAL.

Ordinance No. 2 enables Trust and other Funds in the United Kingdom to be invested in British Honduras Government Securities to which the Colonial Stock Acts apply.

Ordinance No. 10 discontinues the liability of the Government to make any further contributions to the Sinking Fund of the Belize Improvement Loan, 1885, in view of the fact that the present capital value of the Fund is deemed to be sufficient for extinguishing the debt.

Ordinances Nos. 3, 4, 7, 8 are the usual measures for the legal appropriation of the General Revenues and the funds of the District Boards.

SUNDRY.

The remaining six Ordinances relate to the abolition of the Constabulary Force, the limitation of corporal punishment, the issuing of licenses to search for minerals on Crown lands, the modification of the law relating to Friendly Societies, electric lighting, and the constituting of the Roman Catholic Church a corporate body.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The statistics, relating to education, furnished in this report are for the calendar year. It has not yet been found possible to take any step towards the imparting of agricultural instruction, beyond distributing text books amongst the teachers and arranging that whenever the Superintendent of the Botanic Station visits any district an opportunity should be afforded teachers and pupils of being present at his lectures or demonstrations. The kind of instruction which would probably best suit the requirements of this Colony, is that of demonstrating how small farms can be worked so as to yield an adequate return, and for this purpose ploughing and the use of tools for breaking up the soil, manuring, planting, reaping, the care of working and breeding cattle and small stock and poultry would have to be taught, besides, perhaps, bee keeping. For instruction of this character an Institution of some pretensions would be necessary, and instructors well versed in the different subjects they would be called on to teach, and the Institution would only be of universal benefit if it were placed in such a situation as to be easily accessible to all who wish to learn, and if the teachers of schools receiving Government Grants are required to go through a course of instruction. The difficulties in the way of carrying out such a scheme are at present manifold, as the expense would be considerable, means of communication are defective, and a site cannot be selected until these have been improved. As soon as the Government shall have definitely decided what roads or other means of communication are to be taken in hand, the question will become ripe for consideration, and it will be possible to approach it with good prospects of arriving at a satisfactory solution.

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from 1898 *to* 1902.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
						$	$	$	$
1898 ...	45	3,728	2,606	69·90	190	14,449.50	2,793.25	15,540.11	5.52
1899 ...	42	3,547	2,491	70·23	186	11,637.26	2,479.49	10,126.58	4.67
1900 ...	38	3,391	2,383	70·30	188	11,245.53	2,312.53	9,101.38	4.76
1901 ...	36	3,423	2,328	68·01	189	12,030.08	2,230.	8,584.71	5.16
1902 ...	39	3,646	2,560	70·32	184	13,619.40	2,268.98	7,565.56	6.00

Sources of Education Revenue.

Schools	Number of children on roll.	Average Attendance.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Total.	Percentages.			Receipt of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.
							of Government Grants.	of School Fees.	of Voluntary Contributions.	
			$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England	865	555	3,284·10	623·65	2,518·33	6.426·08	51·11	9·70	39·19	1·12
Roman Catholic	1,448	1,098	5,221·42	672·66	2,641·00	8,535·08	61·18	7·88	30·94	·61
Wesleyan	990	677	3,849·80	747·39	1,623·95	6,221·14	61·89	12·01	26·10	1·10
Baptist	270	182	1,020·24	129·73	683·62	1,833·59	55·64	7·07	37·29	·68
Non-denominational	73	48	243·84	95·55	50·00	389·39	62·62	24·24	12·84	1·99
Totals	3,646	2,560	13,619·40	2,268·98	7,516·90	23,405·28	58·19	9·70	32·11	·88

The cost per head on the total average attendance (2,560) for the year compared with the cost for each of the two preceding years was:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government	5·38	5·91	6·00
School Fees	·97	·92	·88
Voluntary Contributions	4·07	3·64	2·96
Totals	10·42	10·47	9·84

In addition to the Grants-in-Aid the Government paid the expenses of administration, $1,660.50, and the cost of text books on agriculture which were distributed amongst the schools, $85.67.

The amount of school fees collected continues to show a decrease.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years, per unit of average attendance, are shewn in the following table:—

Schools.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Receipt of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.		
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1900.	1901.	1902.
				$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England	576	527	555	676·21	634·62	623·65	1·17	1·20	1·12
Roman Catholic	957	998	1,098	710·14	669·86	672·66	·74	·67	·61
Wesleyan	636	595	677	721·28	650·42	747·39	1·13	1·09	1·10
Baptist	172	166	182	122·35	112·08	129·73	·71	·68	·68
Non-denominational	42	42	48	82·55	88·92	95·55	1·96	2·11	1·99
Totals	2,383	2,328	2,560	2,312·53	2.155·90	2,268·98	·99	·97	·88

The foregoing tables have reference to those schools only which receive Government aid; they are all primary.

The Inspector of Schools furnishes the following particulars:—

"Unfortunately, present circumstances render it impossible to aid every school that may be established for the purpose of supplying the needs of the Colony in the direction of primary education, and there are in existence a few schools that are not in receipt of a Government grant.

"Some of these, owing to the existence of aided schools in their immediate vicinity, capable of accommodating a larger number of children than seek admission thereto, are not absolutely necessary. Others, particularly those established in the out-districts, supply a real want. In Belize there are several unaided schools, of which one or two include in their curriculum both primary and secondary education; two purely elementary schools are conducted by teachers holding Colonial Certificates—one of them is under the auspices of the A.M.E. Zion Church, and appears to be properly organised.

"There were about five in the out-districts; but two have been abandoned. None of the teachers hold certificates.

"Considerable difficulty is experienced in carrying on such schools for any length of time without Government Aid.

"When there is no school, the inhabitants of a district or a village express the greatest anxiety to have one and promise proper support; but, on its establishment, the people after a few months of effort grow tired and gradually withdraw their subscriptions till the only means of revenue left are the school fees, which are not always promptly paid; under most favourable conditions, the sums collected from this source are small.

"As information touching the receipts in these schools has been given in but one case, it is not possible to state here the total amounts collected.

"Their total enrolment of pupils is scarcely more than 200, with an average attendance of about 120.

"Secondary education continues to be under the almost exclusive management of the churches. Of the six schools that may be classed as Secondary, three are Roman Catholic and two are Church of England.

"The total number of pupils on roll for the year was 269, with an average attendance of 237.

"These schools are in no way under Government control, nor do they receive aid from the Public Funds. The managers have been invited to give information concerning them for publication in the Bl~~ue Book, but they seem~~ disinclined to give figures touching the school revenue. It would seem, however, that the amounts received as school fees are their main source of support."

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUMS, AND POOR-HOUSE.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1902:—

Institutions.	Remained at beginning of 1902.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1903.	Average Daily.
Belize Hospital ...	56	590	525	65	56	55·15
Corosal Hospital ...	6	99	87	12	6	9·66
Orange Walk Hospital	11	99	98	8	4	6·98
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	44	4	3	2	43	43·72
Poor-house ...	24	10	4	7	23	26·67

SAVINGS BANKS.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district; but there were no transactions at the Cayo during 1902, and no money at deposit. The savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had, at the end of the year 1902, 393 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December, 1902, was $47,252.56, as against $46,470.35 in 1901.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $44,854.62.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are eight duly registered friendly societies in Belize, with whom 359 members are recorded as having invested $11,062.24, in addition to amounts held on current account to meet expenses and withdrawals.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

The British Honduras Constabulary Force was disbanded on the 21st January, 1902, and the strength of the Police Force for the whole Colony authorised was, one superintendent, two assistants, and 113 non-commissioned officers and men.

The discipline of the Force was good.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison, from 1898 to 1902:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1898	405	65·64
1899	263	53·67
1900	286	51·34
1901	321	45·31
1902	322	43·48

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1902 was 1,209, against 1,441 in 1901 and 1,742 in 1900; whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was, in 1902, 875; in 1901, 947; in 1901, 1,209.

Thirty-five persons were committed for trial in the Superior Courts. Five of these cases fell through for want of prosecution; judgment for the Crown was given in 22; judgment for the prisoner in seven, and there was one remaining at the close of the year.

There were two convictions for manslaughter, four for other offences against the person, eight for offences against property, and eight for miscellaneous offences.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated mean population for the year was 38,315, consisting of 19,572 males and 18,743 females.

The birth rate was 38·287, and the mortality 27·613 per mille.

The number of illegitimate births was 660 out of a total of 1,467. The tendency towards the increase of illegitimacy is still observable, the rates per cent. for the past six years being as follows:—

Year.	Per cent.
1897	36·31
1898	37·51
1899	39·85
1900	42·08
1901	43·12
1902	44·99

339 marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 8·85 per 1,000 persons.

Hitherto, this Colony has shown a smaller percentage of illegitimate births than any of the British West Indian Colonies, and the gradual but steady increase of illegitimacy is a regrettable feature.

The following table gives the numbers of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last ten years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000
1893 ...	1,274	40·48	404	1,374	43·66
1894 ...	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895 ...	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42·208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810
1900 ...	1,478	39·948	339	890	24·055
1901 ...	1,489	39·548	312	1,069	28·393
1902 ...	1,467	38·287	339	1,058	27·613

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The classification of the causes of death adopted by the Colonial Surgeon is as follows:—

—	Per 1,000.
Malarial fever	8·865
Dysentery	1·331
Phthisis	·991
Nervous Diseases	1·57
Circulatory	1·07
Respiratory	1·931
Intestinal	2·192
Total death-rate of the Colony	27·613

Only 26·46 per cent. of the deaths were certified by medical practitioners, 6·24 per cent. being certified by District Commissioners, the Police, or Coroners, while 67·30 per cent. were uncertified.

The rate of mortality varied greatly in the different districts:—

District.	Per 1,000.
Stann Creek	17·073
Belize	22·259
Orange Walk	28·471
Corosal	33·4
Cayo	38·062
Toledo	38·452

The following interesting paragraph culled from the Report of the Registrar-General no doubt has a material bearing on the question:—

"Among the Indian population throughout the Colony the deaths exceed the births by 78; this excess is almost entirely due to the number of deaths registered in the Toledo district as belonging to its Indian inhabitants, viz., 121, whereas the corresponding births registered were only returned at 48, leaving an excess of 73 deaths. In the Corosal district the number registered as belonging to this particular race was identical, viz., 109, and in the Orange Walk district there was only a difference of one in favour of the births. The Carib race, on the other hand, repeats the history of previous years; the births among that race exceed the deaths by 104. During the past five years the Indian deaths exceed the births by 87, whereas the Carib births exceed the deaths by 380."

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1898-1902, inclusive, according to their race classification:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1898–1902.
Indian	105·475
Carib...	44·199
Negro	57·885
Other Races...	71·374

The diseases which caused the largest number of deaths were:—

—	Certified.	Uncertified.	Total.
Fever	15	353	368
Dysentery	10	40	50
Diarrhœa	15	28	43
Tetanus	23	—	23
Phthisis	18	—	35
Tuberculosis	5	—	
Consumption	—	12	

There were 12 cases of death from drowning, one from snakebite, and four from gunshot and macheete wounds. There has been no yellow fever or small pox in the Colony since 1892.

(C.) CLIMATE

The temperature and rainfall for each month of the year in Belize is shown below:—

Month.	Temperature.		Rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell.
	Maximum.	Minimum.		
January ...	84·6	55	—	—
February ...	89·	59	·05	1
March... ...	89·5	57	·5	1
April	91·2	64	1·70	2
May	91	74	2·46	4
June	91	70	17·14	17
July	90·2	70	10·15	16
August ...	91	70	4·28	13
September ...	92	71	5·40	13
October ...	92	69	10·07	16
November ...	90·1	63	10·71	13
December ...	90	62	3·43	11
	—	—	65·89	107

Through the courtesy of the Colonial Surgeon, who has supplied the particulars, I am enabled to give a statement and chart* showing the average rainfall in Belize for the past 20 years:—

Month.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average for 20 years.
January	14·81	0·00	5·18
February	8·90	0·05	2·70
March	8·02	0·05	2·21
April	12·77	0·00	2·55
May	16·34	0·59	5·09
June	20·89	3·12	8·68
July	14·45	1·48	7·72
August	15·48	3·24	8·22
September	23·68	2·42	9·67
October	23·10	2·90	12·26
November	21·47	3·92	11·10
December	14·64	1·49	5·98
(1900) ...	114·12 ...	— ...	—
(1893) ...	— ...	55·29 ...	81·48

The rainfall for 1902 in Belize was 16 inches less than the average for the past 20 years:—

Year.	Rainfall in Inches.	No. of Days.
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	30·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116
1902 ...	65·89	107

At Punta Gorda, near the extreme south of the Colony, the rainfall amounted to 147·35 inches, of which 13·55 inches fell in June, 24·18 in July, 27·89 in August, and 25·62 in September.

MISCELLANEOUS NUMERICAL RETURNS.

As compared with 1901 the number of freeholders returned has decreased by three, while the persons paying direct taxes have increased by 23, and paupers have decreased by two.

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* Not reproduced,

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year 1902 was $10,980.56.

The total expenditure of $22,090.59 was distributed as follows:—

	$	$
EXTRA COLONIAL:—		
Subsidy	12,208.37	
Transit dues	403.02	
		12,611.39
INTRA COLONIAL:—		
Salaries and wages	2,640.62	
Northern subsidy	5,400.00	
Southern subsidy	448.00	
Various services	990.58	
		9,479·20
Total		22,090·59

The number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad from 1898 to 1902 was as follows:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Ordinary letters ...	118,552	124,847	141,860	138,359	137,185
Registered letters ...	4,670	4,828	8,268	8,932	7,546
Post-cards	2,943	2,907	4,271	4,591	4,168
Newspapers, books, &c.	93,574	86,486	97,989	91,748	88,655
Postal parcels... ...	1,343	1,672	2,063	2,064	2,516

The number of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.
Letters	56,860	56,619	58,579	61,842	62,965
Post-cards	1,090	752	1,279	1,281	1,100
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	7,869	6,956	8,113	9,702	8,655

The transactions in connection with the money-order system from 1898 to 1902 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom, &c.

Year.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1898	1,336	17	10
1899	1,228	2	10
1900	1,439	2	3
1901	1,198	11	10
1902	1,287	5	11

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	2,289·13
1900	3,461·68
1901	3,065·30
1902	3,730·75

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1897	33	1	0
1898	246	10	0
1899	182	12	5
1900	282	6	2
1901	215	10	2
1902	405	7	4

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1899	807·97
1900	832·14
1901	831·06
1902	1,670·80

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEERS.

This Force continued to progress favourably throughout the year. The strength on 31st December, 1902, was eight officers and 205 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total expenditure for the year was $2,627.77.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) IMPORTANT EVENTS.

At the end of 1901 an acute depression in trade occurred, which lasted until September, 1902. The mahogany and logwood trade with England had become unremunerative, large firms had ceased, or seriously curtailed, operations, despondency was the key note in trade circles, the currency was restricted, imports fell off, and labourers in larger numbers than usual sought work in the neighbouring Republics. The Government had made such preparations as were possible for the crisis by reducing the export duties by half, and by decreasing the royalty on mahogany by $2 per tree, and on logwood by $1 per ton. These measures of relief were supplemented by enjoining the observance of the strictest economy throughout the Public Service, and endeavouring to effect savings on the moneys appropriated for carrying on the Government. Fortunately, after eight months of depression, improvement commenced in the Public Revenues in September, and by the end of the year the combined results of larger collections and considerable saving of expenditure were that the financial condition of the Government was nearly the same as it had been when the depression commenced. In a large measure the mahogany and cedar trade with the United States is the cause of this revival, and the means whereby a threatened prolonged depression has been averted.

Early in the year attention was turned towards the possibility of agricultural development, and a society was formed, styled the Society of Agriculture and Commerce, to which reference has already been made in this Report.

The Legislative Council voted a sum of $5,878 for the purpose of importing a dredger to deepen the bar of the river which flows through Belize, and for other purposes, but the machine had not arrived at the close of the year.

The Council also approved of the employment of an Advisory Engineer to report on the best means of opening up and developing the Colony. This is a far-reaching step, which it is hoped may lead to important results.

The first line of telephone erected in the Colony was opened for the transaction of business during the year.

The Land Tax Commission, mentioned last year, made its Report in 1902, but came to the conclusion that "the present is not an opportune time for increasing the burdens upon land."

The Mail Contract with the United Fruit Company was renewed for a period of five years, from January, 1902, but at a decreased subsidy of $12,000, saving $2,500 per annum.

The Coronation of His Majesty the King was celebrated with demonstrations of great loyalty.

(B.) PUBLIC WORKS.

Telegraph wires were erected from Belize to Consejo *via* Orange Walk and Corosal during the year, a distance of 97½ miles, and a telephone system installed. It has not yet been found possible to carry the wires across the frontier and connect with the Mexican system, on account of the line from Peto to Payo Obispo in Yucatan being still under military control, and unavailable for the transmission of commercial messages. Preparations have been made for the connection as soon as this obstacle shall have been removed. In the meantime, the utilisation of the line for local messages has proved a great convenience to the inhabitants of these districts.

A new Police Station was erected at Progreso, and a new store at the Belize Hospital, and the various public buildings were maintained in good order.

No other public works of importance were undertaken.

(C.) FUTURE PROSPECTS.

I have little to add to the remarks made in my last year's Report, except, that if the Advisory Engineer, whose services were requisitioned for during the year under report, finds it possible to recommend measures for the opening up of the country, at an expenditure which is not beyond the financial resources of the Colony, its future prospects will be considerably brighter than they have been in the past. In that case, the efforts of the Society of Agriculture and Commerce will inevitably result in much more being made out of the land than is now done, and in greater prosperity to the people, as it will be possible to make use of the rich resources of the country and to convey produce to the ports for shipment at a small cost. As soon as any definite schemes have been accepted there will be a wide field for the utilisation of capital and the employment of praedial labour, and the effectual settlement of the people on the land will become possible.

The average rates of wages at which labourers have been hired this season are—

Mahogany cutters	$9.53	per month	with rations.
Logwood „	$9.81	„	..
Plantation labourers	$7.05	„	„

P. C. Cork,

Administering the Government.

LONDON:
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1903.

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No. 417.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1903.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 390.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
June, 1904.

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No. 417.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1902, *see* No. 390.)

ACTING-GOVERNOR CORK to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Belize,
30th April, 1904.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith my Report on the Blue Book for the year 1903.

I have, &c.,
P. C. CORK,
Administering the Government.

875 Wt 22378 6/1904 D & S 5 18354 A 2

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1903.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns are for the year ended 31st March, 1903, while the other returns are for the calendar year 1903.

On the 1st April, 1902, the surplus on the General Revenue Account of the Colony was $76,867.63.

(A.) Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1901-2 and 1902-3 under each head of revenue and service respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1901–1902	1902–1903.
	$	$
1. Customs	154,859.53	138,120.57
2. Light Dues	5,827.50	6,746.18
3. Internal Taxation	56,251.90	54,479.15
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	8,132.98	26,699.97
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	19,252.06	17,385.30
6. Postal Revenue	10,941.36	10,621.32
7. Interest	1,815.88	3,363.95
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	119.54	119.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	3,976.46	1,572.46
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	261,177.21	259,108.44
10. Sale of Crown Lands	965.47	491.75
11. Supply of Silver Coins	10,000.00	—
Total General Revenue ...	272,142.68	259,600.19
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	27,861.11	26,344.72
Corosal District	2,646.39	3,033.97
Orange Walk District	2,216.45	1,469.48
Stann Creek District	1,862.86	2,086.17
Toledo District	1,688.20	1,590.21
Cayo District	456.75	683.75
Total Local Revenue ...	36,731.76	35,208.30
Grand Total	308,874.44	294,808.49

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1901–1902.	1902–1903.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	11,190.64	10,818.16
2. Pensions	6,344.74	7,825.30
3. Governor	10,486.11	10,770.41
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	8,685.69	8,762.33
5. Treasury and Custom House	15,700.56	14,535.30
6 Audit Department	2,197.46	2,185.44
7. Post Office	21,654.28	24,177.25
8. Judicial	14,102.07	14,340.75
9. District Commissioners	15,498.42	15,613.99
10. Constabulary	8,576.32	—
11. Police	32,824.47	40,490.70
12. Belize Volunteer Force	3,354.66	3,277.03
13. Prisons	12,728.55	11,422.01
14. Medical Department	27,214.60	26,572.80
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	114.28	116.89
16. Education...	14,420.48	14,734.28
17. Ecclesiastical	437.40	169.32
18. Surveyor-General's Department ...	6,970.79	6,822.62
19. Botanic Station	1,754.85	2,323.49
20. Miscellaneous	7,861.40	6,687.75
21. Lighthouses, &c....	3,968.55	4,787.60
22. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,248.10	3,465.29
23. Public Works Recurrent	17,482.80	13,386.62
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	246,817.22	243,285.93
24. Public Works Extraordinary	5,863.49	8,931.75
25. Supply of Silver Coins	4,229.96	24.56
Total General Expenditure ...	256,910.67	252,242.24
Local Expenditure :—		
Belize District	25,620.94	26,492.95
Corosal District	3,137.69	2,630.15
Orange Walk District	2,547.26	2,100.16
Stann Creek District	2,163.49	2,069.02
Toledo District	1,331.45	2,210.41
Cayo District	645.39	627.19
Total Local Expenditure ...	35,446.22	36,129.88
Grand Total	292,356.89	288,372.12

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1899 to 1902-3 inclusive, with notes of points of special interest attached:—

General Revenue.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1899	250,458	Includes $13,342 Export Duty on Mahogany and Logwood from July.
1900	289,727	Includes the same Export Duty as in 1899, amounting to $22,251, and an increase from 10 to 12½ per cent. on ad valorem goods from the 23rd June.
1900–1	292,689	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	272,142	Includes $10,000 Silver Coin.
1902–3	259,600	

General Expenditure.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1899	262,413	Includes $3,228 for Official Residence at the Cayo.
1900	246,201	Includes $2,229 for New Wing to the Belize Hospital.
1900–1	249,186	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	256,910	Includes $4,229 cost of Silver Coins.
1902–3	252,242	Includes part of cost of Northern Telegraph

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corozal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1899	27,200	3,154	2,602	2,578	578	754	36,866
1900	25,396	3,100	2,836	2,472	1,590	492	35,886
1900–1	24,975	2,972	2,490	2,401	1,705	679	35,222
1901–2	27,861	2,646	2,216	1,863	1,688	457	36,732
1902–3	26,344	3,033	1,469	2,086	1,590	683	35,208

Expenditure.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Starn Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1899	28,312	3,190	4,132	1,023	694	1,192	38,543
1900	25,222	2,998	2,846	4,133	1,753	428	37,380
1900-1	26,882	3,586	2,689	4,006	1,209	452	38,824
1901-2	25.621	3,138	4,547	2,163	1,331	645	35,446
1902-3	26,492	2,630	2,100	2,069	2,210	627	36,129

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

None have taken place.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1903, in respect of its assets and liabilities is shown in the following table:—

General Revenues.

—	1901-2.	1902-3.
	$	$
Assets	139,128.49	150,052.74
Liabilities	62,260.86	65,827.16
Excess of Assets	76,867.63	84,225.58

At the end of the calendar year 1903 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $125,464.08, of which $45,504.83 was invested at interest.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on 31st March, 1903:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1887...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1891...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

These loans were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize, and half the interest and sinking funds, in respect of the loans of 1885 and 1887, are repaid out of the local funds to general revenues. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 will require no further contributions, as the amount now at credit, if left to accumulate at compound interest at the rate of 3 per cent. will amount to more than will be necessary to pay off the liability when it becomes due for repayment in 1916. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has therefore been enacted, discontinuing the contributions.

Provision for payment has been made by the investment of the sinking funds as set forth in the next table:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
		$
Loan of 1885.	Repayable 1916. $27,875=£5,735 12s....	21,072.48
Loan of 1887.	Repayable 1918. £9,000	16,874.60
Loan of 1891.	Repayable 1923. £20,000	20.350.42
	Total Sinking Funds	58,297.50

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America; the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $110,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
104,500	50	52,250
155,000	25	38,750
126,000	10	12,600
128,000	5	6,400
513,500	—	110,000

There is also a bronze cent piece; the amount in circulation being 150,000 pieces.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st March, 1903, was $94,184, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of currency held in the Colony $65,943.58, $28,240.42 having been remitted for investment in England.

(F.) Debts of Local Boards.

The Boards have not been authorised to contract loans, and there is no local debt. The Belize District Board refunded to general revenues half the interest on the Town and Harbour Improvements Loan of 1885, and half the interest and sinking fund of the loan of 1887, amounting to $2,120.89.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1897 to 1903:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473
1900 ...	376,172	2.069	708,403	112,128	1,198,772
1901 ...	373,506	3,941	731,137	118,618	1,227,202
1902 ...	337,300	920	662,624	226,959	1,227,803
1903 ...	463,915	2,592	938,414	368,055	1,772,976

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593
1899 ..	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617
1900 ...	613,565	—	352,358	334,642	1,300,565
1901 ...	635,913	—	595,285	156,400	1,387,598
1902 ...	417,262	—	723,059	221,889	1,362,210
1903 ...	339,293	—	1,116,597	397,291	1,853,181

The value of the total imports during the year increased by $545,173, and the exports by $490,971.

The following table shows the countries from whence the Colony obtained its supplies, as compared with 1902.

—	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	337,300	463,915	126,615	—
United States... ...	662,634	938,414	275,780	—
Mexico	143,248	202,085	58,837	—
Spanish Honduras ...	49,792	121,491	71,699	—
Guatemala	13,079	10,304	—	2,775
Germany	14,615	22,361	7,746	—
British Colonies ...	920	2,592	1,672	—
Other Countries ...	6,225	11,814	5,589	—

The imports, as shown above, included bullion and coin, received from the following countries, viz.:—

—	1902.	1903.
	$	$
United States	61,699	64,650
Mexico	130,444	154,596
Honduras	7,920	30,603
Guatemala	7,455	689

The total value of imports, exclusive of bullion and coin, during the year amounted to $1,522,438, being $502,153 in excess of the imports for 1902, and $342,187 in excess of the average imports for the previous eight years. Of this amount $1,357,668 was entered for home consumption.

The following statement shows the countries from whence the imports were received and the percentages from the several sources in 1895, as compared with 1903:—

—	1895.			1903.		
	$		per cent.	$		per cent.
United Kingdom	427,802	or	29·4	463,915	or	26·1
United States	751,575	or	51·7	938,414	or	52·9
British Colonies	3,237	or	·2	2,592	or	·1
Other Countries	271,026	or	18·7	368,055	or	20·9

This statement shows that the United Kingdom has lost 3·3 per cent. of the trade during the nine years as against a gain by the United States of 1·2 per cent. and by other countries of 2·2 per cent.

The figures grouped in the classes required by the Board of Trade show an increase as compared with 1902 in each class as follows:—

—	1903.	1902.	Increase.
	$	$	$
Class I.— Live animals, food, drink and narcotics	689,593	537,725	151,867
Class II.— Raw material	74,551	17,923	56,628
Class III.— Manufactured articles	758,294	464,636	293,658
Class IV.— Bullion and coin	250,538	207,518	43,020
Total Increase	—	—	545,173

The customs duties during the year brought in $154,607, or $28,869 in excess of that for 1902, and $11,893 in excess of the average receipts for the last eight years.

This increase is mainly attributable to the enhanced spending power of the population consequent on the abnormal increase in the output of the woodcutting industry, owing to the demand which has sprung up in the United States within the last two years for mahogany and cedar, and to the fact that that market is taking small wood which in the ordinary course of events would have been allowed another twenty years to mature.

It is doubtful whether the wood supply of the Colony can stand for many years the strain which is now being put on it, so that the increase in imports and customs revenue is liable to collapse at any time unless steps are taken to develop the fruit and other industries by means of frequent and direct communication with other markets.

The total exports for the year amounted to $1,853,181, an increase of $490,971, as compared with 1902, and $518,360, as compared with the average exports for the previous eight years.

Of this amount $1,053,945 represented the value of the produce of the Colony, the balance being bullion and coin, and the produce and manufactures of other countries re-exported.

As compared with 1895 the export trade shows the following increases and decreases:—

		$
United Kingdom	Decrease	247,548
France	„	166,307
Germany	„	38,128
Holland	„	16,667
Other Countries	„	1,361
United States	Increase	785,557
Honduras	„	143,563
Mexico	„	105,133
Other Countries	„	4,941

The falling off in exports to the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Holland is mainly due to depression in the logwood industry owing to the bad prices ruling—the wood shipped in 1895 amounted to 30,830 tons, valued at $699,525, as against 14,205 tons, valued at $274,303 in 1903.

The increase of exports to the United States is due to the demand in that country for mahogany and cedar—the wood shipped in 1903 amounted to 7,479,890 feet mahogany, valued at $381,366, and 677,332 feet cedar, valued at $34,022, as against nothing in 1895.

The exports to the neighbouring Republics of Honduras and Mexico represent the produce and manufactures of other countries obtained through the mercantile houses in Belize. This trade has grown from $63,095 in 1895 to $311,791 in 1903, and with encouragement, such as the provision of bonded warehouses at the several ports, promises to become a very valuable part of the trade of the Colony.

The following is a statement of the quantity and value of the principal items of produce exported during the last nine years:—

—	1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	2,868,346	151,290	2,769,676	186,682	6,777,382	403,270	7,630,252	471,279	6,499,168	378,675
Cedar...	62,965	2,600	33,639	1,873	234,736	12,251	316,113	15,401	351,149	25,456
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	30,830	699,525	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223	24,098	550,569
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.	
Bananas	454,316	93,070	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225	272,898	75,444
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	1,044,020	5,232	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509	1,506,750	12,498
Coconuts	1,440,816	14,578	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996	2,699,831	25,569
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	17,381	6,878	19,895	5,979	13,797	6,178	37,622	19,103	55,321	30,944
Chicle	105,478	34,479	925,199	96,408	255,945	51,731	255,263	36,458	260,448	33,928
Sarsaparilla	13,254	4,007	7,437	1,932	5,603	1,153	15,955	3,690	14,317	2,895
Tortoise shell ...	4,174	18,957	3,203	15,055	3,450	13,726	4,197	17,673	3,878	16,043

Quantity and Value of the Principal Items of Produce Exported—*cont.*

—	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	7,994,378	438,589	6,485,952	359,220	6,043,821	326,658	9,358,776	492,554
Cedar	400,611	19,714	421,231	20,977	486,356	24,660	706,533	35,505
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	20,521	432,986	19,682	376,569	15,200	302,366	14,205	274,303
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.	
Bananas	365,972	91,105	538,751	152,514	438,200	107,805	524,811	158,913
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	2,106,300	17,995	1,383,450	14,988	1,624,310	13,168	2,243,350	17,885
Coconuts	2,407,130	26,044	3,265 357	41,114	3,767,175	36,365	3,738,264	47,822
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	48,996	13,391	40,044	23,237	30,338	14,163	22,176	13,002
Chicle	260,848	33,978	136,391	24,342	252,933	38,185	409,508	74,951
Sarsaparilla	8,947	1,761	7,515	737	2,797	688	3,597	766
Tortoise shell	2,692	12,543	2,971	14,562	3 297	14,335	2,737	14,507

As compared with 1902 the following increases and decreases appear:—

—	1902.	1903.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
Mahogany	6,043,821	9,358,776	3,314,955	—
Cedar	486,356	706,533	220,177	—
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Logwood	15,200	14,205	—	995
	Bchs.	Bchs.	Bchs.	Bchs.
Bananas	438,200	524,811	86,611	—
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Plantains	1,624,310	2,243,350	619,040	—
Coconuts	3,767,175	3,738,264	—	28,911
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Rubber	30,338	22,176	—	8,162
Chicle	252,933	409,508	156,575	—
Sarsaparilla	2,797	3,537	800	—
Tortoise shell	3,297	2,737	—	560

The large increase in the output of mahogany and cedar is solely due to the operations of two American firms engaged in supplying the American market. The wood is purchased unsquared and paid for on the spot, thus saving the woodcutters considerable labour and expense in preparing the logs for the home market, freight charges, &c., &c.

The produce of the Colony was taken by the following countries:—

Articles.		Quantity.	Value.
United States—			$
Bananas	Bchs.	524,500	158,899
Plantains	No.	2,204,450	17,656
Rubber	lbs.	20,664	12,246
Coconuts	No.	3,668,200	47,072
Sapodilla Gum	lbs.	405,215	74,257
Cedar	Ft.	607,886	30,550
Mahogany	Ft.	7,479,890	381,366
United Kingdom—			
Cedar	Ft.	292,201	1,483
Logwood	Tons.	10,451	204,382
Mahogany	Ft.	1,887,386	111,116
Tortoise Shell	lbs.	2,737	14,507
Rubber	lbs.	1,512	756
Sarsaparilla	lbs.	3,597	766
Sapodilla Gum	lbs.	4,293	694

Produce taken by the following Countries—*cont.*

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
Germany—		$
Logwood ... ... Tons.	480	7,200
Russia—		
Logwood ... ... Tons.	983	16,397
France—		
Logwood ... ... Tons.	2,291	46,324

The lumber trade of the Colony seems to have definitely shifted from the United Kingdom to the United States. The following table shows the commencement and growth of the trade in mahogany with the States.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	ft.	$
1893	—	—
1894	1,868	93
1895	—	—
1896	20,462	1,322
1897	2,575	130
1898	39,316	2,454
1899	19,476	1,362
1900	178,326	11,881
1901	364,724	16,957
1902	2,226,337	111,027
1903	7,479,890	381,366

The export of mahogany and cedar to the United Kingdom is now limited to wood of good grain and of large size, the prices obtained for wood of this class repaying the cost of squaring, &c., whereas in former years the total output was sent to that market.

The decrease in 1902 of shipments of mahogany to England was 1,846,780 feet; in 1903 there was a further decline of 1,951,954 feet.

As compared with 1902 the past year has been one of great prosperity. The mahogany and cedar production has been very large and has kept the woodcutters fully occupied, while the increase in the output of bananas and plantains shows that agriculturists have also been busy. There has also been an increase in sapodilla gum or chicle. There is a slight falling off in the export of coconuts, though the value is $10,957 more than in 1902 and apparently the largest ever secured in any one year. Logwood also, while showing a decline in quantity of 995 tons, appears to have increased in value by $5,039. A considerable falling off has occurred in rubber, and this decline seems to be progressive. I fear it is due to injudicious bleeding of the trees.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in the Colony.

The returns show 52 sugar mills in operation; six being operated by steam and 46 by cattle or mules. There are also 16 stills for manufacturing rum, one steam corn mill, and one coffee mill. 188,184 lbs. of raw sugar and 2,753 gallons of rum were exported to the neighbouring republics.

The sponge fishery only yielded 3,130 lbs., while the exports of tortoise shell amounted to 2,534 lbs.

(C.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND BOTANICAL STATIONS.

Some progress has been made at the Corosal and Stann Creek Stations in the growth of economic plants as object lessons and for distribution amongst agriculturists, and the superintendent has visited several districts, carrying improved agricultural tools with him, and has demonstrated to the small planters the method of using them, also the best way to plant and prune, &c. Several new varieties of maize, peanuts, yams, sweet potatoes, and a few suckers of the smooth cayenne pine were imported for acclimatization, and cotton, cacao, bananas, nutmegs, vanilla, coffee, ginger, arrowroot, rice, tobacco, figs, and vegetables have been planted out to show the effect of cultivation on their growth and productiveness. The experiments which attracted most attention amongst the people were those on cotton and maize. The Government had the assistance of the Society of Agriculture and Commerce in pushing the cultivation of cotton, the British Cotton Growing Association supplying the seed gratis. Several planters in the Corosal district, which appears to be most suitable, made experiments on plots of from one to five acres. The growth was satisfactory, but in one case a field was destroyed by the cotton worm. The crops had not been reaped at the end of the year. In the case of maize the yield was very large, and the small planters at Corosal who live principally on that food and grow it every year were apparently much pleased at the result.

The Society of Agriculture and Commerce started a Journal during the year with the object of disseminating agricultural information which it is hoped may bear fruit in the future.

The number of plants distributed from the stations during the past two years was as follows:—

—	1902.	1903.
Cacao	3,720	3,120
Coffee	705	500
Nutmegs	—	186
Rubber	4,900	833
Logwood	—	3,400
Various; fruits	83	173
„ ornamental ...	723	786
Mahogany	—	100
	10,131	9,098
		lbs.
Tobacco seed	—	2½
		qts.
Peanuts	—	2
Liberian Coffee	—	2
Red kidney beans... ...	—	1

(D.) Land Grants and Value of Land.

During 1903 eighteen lots of land were sold, amounting in the aggregate to 818 acres 1 rood and 28 poles, also two building lots at Mullins River town conditionally, and one at Monkey River town. The standard price of Crown land in rural areas continues at $1 per acre.

Leases.

At the end of the year there were under lease 22,213 acres in 547 rural sections, an increase of 2,456 acres over 1902. These are distributed as follows:—

District.	Sections.	Acres.
Belize	84	5,606
Corosal	48	1,529
Orange Walk	27	193
Cayo	28	1,344
Stann Creek	117	4,534
Toledo	243	9,007
Total	547	22,213

The rents realised were about 15 cents per acre. There was also a conditional lease in the Monkey River District estimated without survey to contain about 72 square miles. In addition there are 730 building lots on long leases, as well as a considerable number on annual tenancy in the towns and villages of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Monkey River, Punta Gorda, &c., the rents of which are given up to the district boards for local purposes.

The revenue from timber licenses increased considerably, as compared with the previous five years:—

Year.	Amount.	—
	$	
1898 ...	12,815.77	
1899 ...	6,018.02	
1900 ...	6,414.71	
1901 ...	3,889.94	
1902 ...	10,378.62	at reduced rates of royalty.
1903 ...	27,237.47	

The total revenue from Crown lands, including timber, but exclusive of rents credited to the district boards, was $31,700.82, as against $13,678.23 in 1902, and $7,720.77 in 1901. The expenditure of the department was $7,733.50, against $7,136.50 in 1902, and $6,391.40 in 1901.

The year has been one of great activity in the department, but unfortunately the professional staff was not large enough to cope with the surveying work, and further arrears have accumulated which it is advisable that an effort should be made to clear off.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1899	368	25,080	216	166,104
1900	338	24,371	214	146,546
1901	404	27,076	291	179,846
1902	523	18,472	263	189,643
1903	591	15,292	317	236,767

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1899	374	27,716	214	163,358
1900	320	22,919	214	146,261
1901	409	26,986	295	180,887
1902	508	19,662	265	188,643
1903	572	16,4[illegible]5	307	234,203

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1899	175	10,398	27	671	27	10,259
1900	124	8,617	51	990	26	10,334
1901	178	6,779	66	1,506	33	13,169
1902	322	7,051	52	774	18	7,211
1903	398	7,974	36	968	10	3,722

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1899	177	10,376	29	677	31	11,796
1900	129	8,774	44	841	24	9,479
1901	179	7,387	59	1,099	30	11,934
1902	330	6,678	30	603	21	8,560
1903	379	8,391	22	822	12	4,512

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1899	51	69,222	106	66,804	57	27,429
1900	35	51,666	104	56,627	69	33,905
1901	55	74,826	128	61,418	107	43,596
1902	66	92,876	102	55,259	95	41,508
1903	106	117,358	80	43,199	125	75,855

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1899	50	66,523	105	66,756	57	27,430
1900	36	51,423	103	56,586	69	35,904
1901	53	73,665	134	63,374	107	43,843
1902	69	94,124	100	52,689	95	41,825
1903	104	115,991	76	40,948	124	76,940

III.—LEGISLATION.

Fourteen Ordinances were passed during the year.

Ordinance No. 1 relates to the exportation of arms, ammunition, and military and naval stores, and gives the Governor power to prohibit by proclamation their exportation to any country or place where they may be used against His Majesty's subjects or forces, or against any forces which may be engaged in military or naval operations in co-operation with His Majesty's forces.

Ordinance No. 4 consolidates and amends the law relating to the savings bank.

Ordinance No. 5 requires deposits to be made by applicants for grants of land or licenses under chapter 103 of the Consolidated Laws relating to Crown lands.

Ordinance No. 6 fixes a quorum of visiting justices of prisons for certain purposes.

Ordinance No. 7 appoints certain public holidays and authorises the governor to direct during what hours public offices shall be open.

Ordinance No. 8 authorises the establishment of canteens for any militia or volunteer force, &c.

Ordinance No. 9 empowers the district board of the Belize district to make certain improvements in the town of Belize, by filling up low lying lots and swampy places.

Ordinance No. 12 limits the floggings and whippings which may be inflicted by the sentence of any court.

Ordinance No. 13 makes it unlawful to establish wireless telegraphs without a licence from the Governor.

Ordinance No. 14 makes provision for giving notice of a marriage intended to be solemnised under the Foreign Marriage Act, 1892.

Ordinances 2, 3, 10 and 11 are the usual Appropriation Ordinances.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The number of pupils examined was 1,995, of whom 1,638, or 82 per cent., passed. In 1902 2,010 were examined and 1,599, or 79 per cent., passed. The school buildings are reported to be, with few exceptions, in good condition, but the furniture is in many cases unsuitable, and provision is being made to grant some assistance towards remedying this defect.

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from 1899 *to* 1903.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
1899 ...	42	3,547	2,491	70·23	186	$ 11,637.26	$ 2,479.49	$ 10,126.58	$ 4.67
1900 ...	38	3,391	2,383	70·30	188	11,245.53	2,312.53	9,101.38	4.76
1901 ...	36	3,423	2,328	68·01	189	12,030.08	2,230.	8,584.71	5.16
1902 ...	39	3,646	2,560	70·32	184	13,619.40	2,268.98	7,565.56	6.00
1903 ...	37	3,444	2,517	73·08	195	12,541.16	2,554.65	8,267.76	4.98

Sources of Education Revenue.

Schools.	Number of children on roll.	Average Attendance.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Total.	Percentages.			Receipt of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.
							of Government Grants.	of School Fees.	of Voluntary Contributions.	
			$	$	$	$				$
Church of England	712	456	2,408.32	614.95	2,727.68	5,750.95	41.88	10.69	47.43	1.34
Roman Catholic	1,415	1,129	5,150.25	865.81	2,683.17	8,699.23	59.21	9.95	30.84	.76
Wesleyan	1,008	708	3,835.20	809.64	2,162.28	6,807.12	56.34	11.89	31.77	1.14
Baptist	246	181	931.14	170.15	644.63	1,745.92	53.33	9.75	36.92	.94
Non-denominational	63	43	216.25	94.10	50.00	360.35	60.01	26.11	13.88	2.18
Totals	3,447	2,517	12,541.16	2,554.65	8,267.76	23,363.57	53.68	10.93	35.39	1.01

The cost per head on the total average attendance (2,517) for the year compared with the cost for each of the two preceding years was:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government	5.91	6.00	5.65
School Fees	.92	.88	1.01
Voluntary Contributions	3.64	2.96	3.28
Totals	10.47	9.84	9.94

In addition to the grants-in-aid the Government paid the expenses of administration, $1,681.57.

The school fees collected were in excess of those of any year since 1898. The increase is satisfactory as it seems to indicate that parents are recognising their duty to pay for the education of their children to a greater extent than they have done within recent years.

The foregoing tables have reference to those schools only which receive government aid; they are all primary.

The inspector of schools furnishes the following particulars:—

"The number of children of school age in the Colony from five years to sixteen is about 9,000.

"The more accessible for the purposes of education are those inhabiting the towns of the Colony and the larger villages on the sea coast and rivers, estimated at 6,500.

The education vote provides for the instruction of a limited number of children, viz.;—an average school attendance of not more than 2,600. The actual figure for the year under review—the average school attendance—was 2,517. The number of children educated in schools which received no aid was 280 in primary schools, and 280 in schools of a secondary character, or having a secondary department. The expenses in connection with the been about $1,136. Information obtained from one secondary school, the St. John's Roman Catholic College, shewed the expenses to have been $2,485.82. The rest of the school population might be distributed among Indian settlements in the north, west, and south and in small straggling villages, chiefly along the river banks; the latter and some of the former are usually too small to furnish enough children to constitute a school, and too far apart to permit of a central school being established which would supply the educational needs of several such villages. One difficulty which has for some years presented itself in the education of Indian children is that of language. On this account the educational needs of several large villages which are easy of access and which would furnish pupils numbering from 50 to 100, and even more, remain unsupplied. A teacher for a school of Indian children must be possessed of more than the ordinary qualifications, for besides his English education he must be acquainted with the Indian dialect, and generally with Spanish, in order to conduct the ordinary school instruction in a manner intelligible to his pupils. In such schools English is required to be specially taught. A man well enough educated to meet the above requirements generally finds more lucrative employment in other occupations. This difficulty does not present itself to the same extent in the case of schools in Carib settlements for which teachers of the same race are more readily obtained.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums and Poor House.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1903:—

Institutions.	Remained at beginning of 1903.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at beginning of 1904.	Average Daily.
Belize Hospital ...	66	605	561	69	41	55·19
Corosal Hospital ...	6	102	85	14	9	11·28
Orange Walk Hospital	4	103	92	11	4	7·47
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	44	3	6	2	39	41·53
Poor-house ...	23	17	10	4	26	28·83

Savings Banks.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district; the savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had at the end of the year 1903 420 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December, 1903, was $60,301.21, as against $47,252.56 in 1902, an increase of over 21 per cent.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $50,686.62.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are six duly registered friendly societies in Belize, two of which have failed to furnish any return for the Blue Book. The remaining four show memberships of 186 and funds invested $2,388.09.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

The authorised strength of the police force for the Colony was one superintendent, two assistants, and 113 non-commissioned officers and men.

It was contemplated that 2 officers and 57 non-commissioned officers and men should be stationed in Belize, and numbers varying from 1 to 12 at the 21 other stations in the Colony, one officer taking charge of the two northern districts Corozal and Orange Walk. As, however, the force in Belize seemed large, at least for the ordinary requirements of the town during the 10 or 11 months when the bulk of the labouring population are absent in the woods cutting timber, or engaged on plantations, the superintendent was instructed to leave a few vacancies as an experiment, and recruiting was stopped from February to October, but resumed on the approach of the Christmas season, the force consisting of 113 of all ranks at the end of the year.

The discipline of the force was good.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison from 1899 to 1903:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1899	263	53·67
1900	286	51·34
1901	321	45·31
1902	322	43·48
1903	367	49·31

(C.) Criminal Statistics.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1903 was 1,267, against 1,209 in 1902, whilst the number of persons summarily convicted was in 1903 909; in 1902 875.

Sixty-two persons were indicted in the superior courts. Four of these cases fell through for want of prosecution; judgment for the Crown was given in 47; judgment for the prisoner in ten, and there was one in which the prisoner was found to be insane.

There was one conviction for murder, 24 for other offences against the person, 21 for offences against property, and one for miscellaneous offences.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) Population.

The estimated mean population for the year was 38,981, consisting of 19,914 males and 19,067 females.

The birth-rate was 38·806 and the mortality 26·75 per mille.

The number of illegitimate births was 697 out of a total of 1,513. The tendency towards the increase of illegitimacy is still observable; the rates per cent. for the past seven years being as follows:—

Year.	Per cent.
1897	36·31
1898	37·51
1899	39·85
1900	42·08
1901	43·12
1902	44·99
1903	46·73

351 marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·00 per 1,000 persons.

The following table gives the numbers of births, marriages and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last ten years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000
1894 ...	1,162	35·32	380	1,208	36·72
1895 ...	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42 208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810
1900 ...	1,478	39·948	339	890	24·055
1901 ...	1,489	39·548	312	1,069	28·393
1902 ...	1,467	38·287	339	1,058	27·613
1903 ...	1,513	38·806	351	1,043	26·75

During 1903 the excess of male over female births was 97, and of male over female deaths 123.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table prepared by the Registrar General furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Mortality from some of the Principal Diseases in the Colony, 1894–1903.

Years.	Diseases.										Total Death Rate.
	Malarial Fevers.	Dysentery.	Small pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.	
1894.	13.059	2.631	—	—	1.891	1.140	2.281	811	1.891	1.531	36.264
1895.	10.470	2.389	—	—	—	1.415	2.949	708	1.563	1.475	30.614
1896.	9.227	1.763	—	—	—	852	3.232	412	1.175	1.969	28.318
1897.	9.924	1.966	—	—	—	1.139	3.646	940	1.282	1.427	28.821
1898.	10.880	1.536	—	—	—	1.547	3.534	510	2.602	1.343	32.069
1899.	9.241	1.954	—	—	—	1.541	3.603	441	4.703	2.503	32.759
1900.	8.677	1.108	—	—	—	1.081	3.379	784	1.755	1.622	24.055
1901.	9.428	1.593	—	—	—	903	2.841	982	1.726	1.965	28.393
1902.	8.865	1.331	—	—	—	991	1.570	1.070	1.931	2.192	27.613
1903.	8.697	1.001	—	—	—	1.385	2.771	487	1.616	1.745	26.750

Malarial fever and dysentery seem to claim a smaller number of victims than in former years.

The variation in the rate of mortality in the different districts is illustrated in the following table, compiled by the Colonial Surgeon:—

Mortality and Birth Rate expressed in **Rates** *per* 1,000 *per annum of the* **Estimated Mean Annual Population** *(compiled by the Colonial Surgeon).*

Some Principal Causes of Death.	District.						The Colony.
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	
Malarial Fevers	2.225	11.217	12.897	4.840	14.618	21.642	8.697
Dysentery	834	1.661	1.433	968	433	1.032	1.001
Phthisis	1.808	1.980	716	968	1.329	341	1.385
Nervous Diseases	3.685	3.464	2.579	2.178	1.107	682	2.771
Circulatory Diseases	487	660	287	484	664	342	487
Respiratory "	1.669	2.639	2.149	484	1.107	342	1.616
Intestinal "	1.600	1.815	1.719	1.452	1.107	3.762	1.745
Rate of { Deaths...	20.581	31.342	29.001	19.361	31.960	44.658	26.750
Rate of { Births	38.937	41.075	32.006	14.046	39.013	41.909	38.806
Estimated Mean Population	14,383	6,062	6,978	4,132	4,515	2,911	38,981

The principal cause of death outside of Belize and Stann Creek was malarial fever. In these two districts, which are the most healthy in the Colony, the mortality from this disease is small when compared with the enormous rates of the other districts. There were 20 deaths from drowning, eight from gunshot wounds, three from falls from trees or being crushed, two from suicide, one from burns, one from snake bite, and one execution.

Only 27·42 per cent. of the deaths were certified by medical practitioners, 7·48 per cent. being certified by district commissioners, the police, or coroners, while 65·10 per cent. were uncertified.

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1899-1903 inclusive, according to their race classification.

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1899–1903.
Indian	104·66
Carib...	42·12
Negro	54·25
Other Races...	71·33

(C.) CLIMATE.

The temperature and rainfall for each month of the year in Belize is shown below:—

Month.	Temperature.		Rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell
	Maximum.	Minimum.		
January ...	87	57	3·00	6
February ...	87·8	63	2·05	3
March... ...	90·9	62	1·22	1
April	94	69	2·80	4
May	93·8	71	3·78	7
June	94	62	5·12	15
July	92·4	69	14·08	25
August ...	91·5	68	12·83	16
September ...	91	68	12·43	16
October ...	90	59	6·08	11
November ...	87	52	3·35	7
December ...	88	58	4·16	7
	—	—	70·90	118

The average rainfall for the 20 years 1883-1902 in Belize was 81·48 inches; the maximum—114·12 inches—being in 1900, and the minimum—55·29 inches—in 1893. In spite of the rainfall at Belize having been below the average the floods in most of the rivers were very heavy, and in the case of the Belize and Sibun lasted for months, placing a large part of the country under water, both rivers having overflowed their banks. The rainfall in the interior must therefore have been much above the average.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall in Inches.	No. of Days.
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116
1902 ...	65·89	107
1903 ...	70·90	118

The southern part of the Colony, where the configuration of the country is mountainous, experiences much heavier rains than Belize, Orange Walk, and Corosal, which represent an almost unbroken plain. At Punta Gorda the average rainfall for the four years 1899-1902 was 146·01 inches, while in 1903 it rained on 221 days, and the total rainfall amounted to 174·39 inches. At Belize during the same period the average was 86·02 inches. Recent statistics are not available for the Corosal district, but from the most reliable information I can collect the average there is only about 58 inches.

MISCELLANEOUS NUMERICAL RETURNS.

The number of freeholders is returned as 2,012, and of persons paying direct taxes 2,343.

Only 51, or 1·308 per mille of the population, were on the pauper roll, but this does not include persons to whom gratuitous hospital or medical aid has been rendered.

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the post office for the calendar year 1903 was $11,917.19.

The total expenditure of $22,672.32 was distributed as follows:—

	$	$
EXTRA COLONIAL:—		
Subsidy	12,000.00	
Transit dues	403.03	12,403.03
INTRA COLONIAL:—		
Salaries and wages	3,459.55	
Northern subsidy	5,527.36	
Southern subsidy	468.00	
Various services	814.38	10,269.29
Total		22,672.32

The number of letters and other articles sent to and received from abroad from 1899 to 1903 was as follows:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Ordinary letters ...	124,847	141,860	138,359	137,185	142,020
Registered letters ...	4,828	8,268	8,932	7,546	8,104
Post-cards	2,907	4,271	4,591	4,168	7,775
Newspapers, books, &c.	86,486	97,989	91,748	88,655	94,777
Postal parcels... ...	1,672	2,063	2,064	2,516	2,862

The number of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Letters	56,619	58,579	61,842	62,965	66,749
Post-cards	752	1,279	1,281	1,100	2,444
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	6,956	8,113	9,702	8,655	11,803

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1899 to 1903 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1901	1,502 16 9
1902	1,494 13 0
1903	1,095 13 0

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1901	3,065·30
1902	3,730·75
1903	3,846·63

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1901	215 10 2
1902	405 7 4
1903	247 18 2

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1901	831·06
1902	1,670·80
1903	1,538·38

The telegraph and telephone transactions for the year were as follows:—

Office.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
Belize	4,606	1,521	6,127
Bakers	570	9	579
Orange Walk	2,541	639	3,180
Corosal	2,962	898	3,860
Consejo	369	295	664
	11,048	3,362	14,410

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEERS.

The strength on 31st December, 1903, was seven officers and 166 non-commissioned officers and men.

The total expenditure for the year was $2,835.57.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) IMPORTANT EVENTS.

The tide of prosperity which commenced in the latter part of 1902 continued unabated during the year, and full employment was obtainable by labourers and others. The government revenues increased, and the substantial surplus of $125,464 remained at the end of 1903.

The Legislative Council voted the necessary funds to construct a telephone line from Belize to Punta Gorda and for a local circuit in Belize. When these lines are completed the principal business centres of British Honduras will be in telephonic communication with each other. It has not yet been found possible to include the Cayo in the system on account of its distance, the very sparse population of that district rendering it apparently impossible to expect the line to yield sufficient revenue to provide for its upkeep.

The advisory engineer submitted plans for improving the channel of the Belize river and the bar of the Hondo river for navigation. It is hoped that it may be possible to undertake these important works at no distant date.

Mr. Dale of the Colonial Office came out on a mission to report on the public service and the development of the Colony. His mission had not terminated at the end of the year.

A considerable reorganisation of the customs and excise service took place during the year, resulting in better collection of the revenue.

In connection with the dredging operations in progress the district board of Belize has undertaken to fill up various low lying lots in the town, utilising the dredgings for the purpose. Operations were commenced towards the end of the year and the work is being actively proceeded with.

Sir David Wilson relinquished the government in May on his retirement from the public service. For the remainder of the year the government has been administered by me.

Mr. H. B. Walcott assumed the duties of treasurer vice Mr. McKinney deceased.

The executive council has been strengthened by the appointment of an additional member, Mr. H. C. Usher, I.S.O.

Mr. Maitland, member of the Legislative Council, died, and his place has been filled by the appointment of Mr. E. A. H. Schofield.

The Bank of British Honduras, Limited, was established in Belize at the commencement of the year. The Colony was much in need of banking facilities, and the institution has had a successful year.

(B.) PUBLIC WORKS.

A Priestman's dredger was imported from England and erected on a barge built here. The machine is being used to deepen the bar of the Belize river, so as to make a good boat channel; the spoil being handed over to the district board to fill up the low lying lots in the town of Belize and improve its sanitation.

A rough survey of a telephone line from Belize to Punta Gorda was made, and the materials purchased to enable the work to be pushed forward in the most favourable season of the ensuing year.

The public buildings were maintained in fair order, and a few alterations made.

The public roads were also maintained in their usual condition, but this leaves much to be desired, and the Colony will have to face a considerably larger appropriation of public funds and an increase of the staff before much substantial improvement can be expected.

(C.) FUTURE PROSPECTS.

The future prospects of British Honduras are entirely dependent on the judicious opening up of its fertile land by efficient means of communication. The most inexpensive method of accomplishing this is to improve the navigation of the rivers and to build light railways or roads from those ports, which are not served by navigable rivers into the nearest fertile land. When this initial step has been taken settlers will be attracted to it, the population will increase, and larger schemes of development will become ripe for consideration.

On account of the small revenue the Government has to observe the greatest circumspection in incurring liabilities, but has succeeded in making provision for the erection of telephones in order to benefit trade, and has put by a fair surplus to be devoted to other works of progress. The year under review has thus been utilised to strengthen the position of the Colony and enable its future prospects to be brightened.

The labourers have shared in the general prosperity, and their wages have been increased; the average rates at which they have been hired this season are:—

Mahogany cutters $11.84 per month with rations.
Logwood cutters $9.68 per month with rations.
Plantation labourers, $7.51 per month with rations.

P. C. CORK,
Administering the Government.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following, among other, reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
397	Gold Coast	1902
398	Barbados...	1902–1903
399	Fiji	1902
400	Lagos	"
401	British Solomon Islands	1902–1903
402	Cocos-Keeling Islands	1903
403	St. Vincent	1902–1903
404	Grenada	1903
405	Southern Nigeria	1902
406	Straits Settlements	"
407	Trinidad and Tobago	1902–1903
408	Basutoland	"
409	Northern Nigeria	1902
410	Malta	1902–1903
411	St. Lucia...	1902
412	Mauritius	"
413	British Guiana	1902–1903
414	Jamaica	"
415	Falkland Islands	1903
	Bahamas (Printed separately as [Cd. 1,985]) ...	1902
	Leeward Islands...	1902–1903

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
15	Canada	Legal Status of British North American Indians.
16	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
17	Gilbert and Ellice Islands ...	Report for 1896–1900
18	Hong Kong	Operations in New Territory during 1900.
19	Miscellaneous Colonies	Medical Reports.
20	Weihaiwei	General Report.
21	Dominica	Report on Caribs.
22	Seychelles...	Report on Para Rubber.
23	Dominica...	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products.

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No. 455.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1904.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 417.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
September, 1905.

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No. 455.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1903, *see* No. 417.)

GOVERNOR SIR E. B. SWEET-ESCOTT to MR. LYTTELTON.

Government House,
Belize,
20th July, 1905.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Report by Mr. H. E. W. Grant, the Acting Colonial Secretary, on the Blue Book of British Honduras for the year 1904.

I have, &c.,
BICKHAM SWEET-ESCOTT,
Governor.

1000 Wt 23792 9/1905 D & S 5 22329

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1904.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1904. The other returns are for the calendar year 1904.

On 1st April, 1903, the surplus on the General Revenue Account of the Colony was $84,225.58.

(A.) Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1902-3 and 1903-4, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	1902–1903.	1903–1904.
	$	$
1. Customs	138,120.57	171,219.00
2. Light Dues	6,746.18	8,423.47
3. Internal Taxation	54,479.15	60,454.41
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	26,699.97	21,991.17
5. Court Fines, Fees of Office, Payments for Specific Services and Reimbursements in Aid.	17,385.30	19,830.02
6. Postal Revenue	10,621.32	11,248.09
7. Interest	3,363.95	3,680.73
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	119.54	149.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,572.46	1,741.88
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	259,108.44	298,738.31
10. Sale of Crown Lands	491.75	1,955.79
11. Supply of Bronze Coins	—	500.00
Total General Revenue ...	259,600.19	301,194.10
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	26,344.72	25,987.01
Corosal District	3,033.97	2,555.04
Orange Walk District	1,469.48	1,764.41
Stann Creek District	2,086.17	2,035.55
Toledo District	1,590.21	1,963.87
Cayo District	683.75	608.00
Total Local Revenue ...	35,208.30	34,913.88
Grand Total	294,808.49	336,107.98

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	1902–1903.	1903–1904.
	$	$
1. Public Debt	10,818.16	10,583.19
2. Pensions	7,825.30	9,982.28
3. Governor	10,770.41	6,926.65
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	8,762.33	6,625.61
5. Treasury and Custom House	14,535.30	18,005.85
6. Audit Department	2,185.44	2,283.44
7. Post Office	24,177.25	22,677.27
8. Judicial	14,340.75	13,934.97
9. District Commissioners	15,613.99	14,771.73
10. Police	40,490.70	40,207.37
11. Belize Volunteer Force	3,277.03	2,033.46
12. Prisons	11,422.01	11,635.36
13. Medical Department	26,572.80	26,673.92
14. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	116.89	34.55
15. Education...	14,734.28	14,721.17
16. Ecclesiastical	169.32	—
17. Surveyor-General's Department ...	6,822.62	7,879.23
18. Botanic Station	2,323.49	2,410.94
19. Miscellaneous	6,687.75	5,044.07
20. Lighthouses, &c....	4,787.60	4,786.38
21. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,465.29	3,529.41
22. Public Works Recurrent	13,386.62	14,310.96
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	243,285.93	239,057.81
23. Public Works Extraordinary	8,931.75	26,719.13
24. Supply of Silver Coins	24.56	—
25. Supply of Bronze Coins	—	262.22
Total General Expenditure ...	252,242.24	266,039.16
Local Expenditure :—		
Belize District	26,492.95	29,015.72
Corosal District	2,630.15	2,547.69
Orange Walk District	2,100.16	1,593.13
Stann Creek District	2,069.02	2,185.29
Toledo District	2,210.41	1,267.73
Cayo District	627.19	534.85
Total Local Expenditure ...	36,129.88	37,144.41
Grand Total	288,372.12	303,183.57

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1900 to 1903-1904, inclusive, with notes on points of special interest:—

General Revenue.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1900	289,727	Includes $22,251 Export Duty on Mahogany and Logwood. The duty on ad valorem goods was increased from 10 to 12½ per cent. from the 23rd June.
1900–1	292,689	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	272,142	Includes $10,000 Silver Coin.
1902–3	259,600	
1903–4	301,194	Includes $500 Bronze Coin.

General Expenditure.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1900	246,201	Includes $2,229 for New Wing to the Belize Hospital.
1900–1	249,186	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	256,910	Includes $4,229 cost of Silver Coin.
1902–3	252,242	Includes part of cost of Northern Telegraph.
1903–4	266,039	Includes part of cost of Southern Telegraph and of Belize Telephone Service.

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1900	25,396	3,100	2,836	2,472	1,590	492	35,886
1900–1	24,975	2,972	2,490	2,401	1,705	679	35,222
1901–2	27,861	2,646	2,216	1,863	1,688	457	36,732
1902–3	26,344	3,033	1,469	2,086	1,590	683	35,208
1903–4	25,987	2,555	1,764	2,035	1,964	608	34,913

Expenditure.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1900	25,222	2,998	2,846	4,133	1,753	428	37,380
1900-1	26,882	3,586	2,689	4,006	1,209	452	38,824
1901-2	25,621	3,138	4,547	2,163	1,331	645	35,446
1902-3	26,492	2,630	2,100	2,069	2,210	627	36,129
1903-4	29,016	2,547	1,593	2,185	1,268	535	37,144

(B.) IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TAXATION.

The law relating to Customs (import) duties was revised, and a new tariff Ordinance (No. 12 of 1904) passed. Increased duties were imposed by the ordinance on certain articles (including cigars, cigarettes, and sparkling wines), and the duties on others (including powder for blasting purposes and petroleum oil of 130° flash test) were decreased. The free list was amended in various minor particulars. It is estimated that the effect of the new ordinance will be to produce additional revenue amounting to $4,700 a year. A provision, not hitherto in the tariff law of the Colony, is included in this ordinance, exempting from the payment of import duty goods imported by any person or corporation in pursuance of any contract with the Government, wherein it is stipulated that such goods shall be imported free of duty.

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1904, in respect of its assets and liabilities, as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1903, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

—	1902-3.	1903-4.
	$	$
Assets	150,052.74	194,048.87
Liabilities	65,827.16	74,668.35
Excess of Assets	84,225.58	119,380.52

At the end of the calendar year 1904 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $156,546.92, of which $63,239.61 was invested.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on 31st March, 1904:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1887...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1891...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

These debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one half of the interest on the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds as set forth in the next table:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885.	Repayable 1916. $27,875=£5,735 12*s*....	21,244.92
Loan of 1887.	Repayable 1918. £9,000	18,456.64
Loan of 1891.	Repayable 1923. £20,000	22.687.92
	Total Sinking Funds	62,389.48

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $110,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
104,500 @	50	= 52,250
155,000 @	25	= 38,750
126,000 @	10	= 12,600
128,000 @	5	= 6,400
513,500	—	110,000

There is also a bronze cent piece, the number of pieces in circulation being 200,000.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st March, 1904, was $73,355, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in the Colony $36,142.29, $37,212.71 having been remitted for investment in England, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) Imports and Exports.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1895 to 1904:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895 ...	427,802	3,237	751,575	271,026	1,453,640
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473
1900 ...	376,172	2.069	708.403	112,128	1,198,772
1901 ...	373,506	3,941	731,137	118,618	1,227,202
1902 ...	337,300	920	662,624	226,959	1,227,803
1903 ...	463,915	2,592	938,414	368,055	1,772,976
1904 ...	467,449	6,621	991,613	291,636	1,757,319

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1895 ...	586,541	18	331,040	366,099	1,283,998
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593
1899 ...	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617
1900 ...	613,565	—	352,358	334,642	1,300,565
1901 ...	635,913	—	595,285	156,400	1,387,598
1902 ...	417,262	—	723,059	221,889	1,362,210
1903 ...	339,293	—	1,116,597	397,291	1,853,181
1904 ...	418,459	7,735	981,343	456,334	1,863,871

The following table shows the countries whence the Colony obtained its supplies, as compared with 1903:—

—	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	463,915	467,449	3,534	—
United States... ...	938,414	991,613	53,199	—
Mexico	202,085	174,892	—	27,193
Honduras	121,491	55,313	—	66,178
Guatemala	10,304	6,999	—	3,305
Germany	22,361	27,448	5,087	—
France	8,229	25,511	17,282	—
British Colonies ...	2,592	6,621	4,029	—
Other Countries ...	3,585	1,473	—	2,112
Totals... ...	1,772,976	1,757,319	83,131	98,788

The total value of the imports in 1904 included $124,846 in bullion and coin, as against $250,538 in 1903.

Inclusive of bullion and coin, the total value of the imports fell below that of 1903 in the sum of $15,657; but excluding bullion and coin, the value was in excess of that in 1903 in the sum of $110,035, and in excess of the average value for the previous nine years by $414,201.

The following statement shows the percentage of the total value of the imports from the United Kingdom, the United

States, British Colonies, and other countries, during 1904, as compared with the year 1895:—

—	1895.		1904.	
	$	per cent.	$	per cent.
United Kingdom	427,802	or 29·4	467,449	or 26·6
United States	751,575	or 51·7	991,613	or 56·4
British Colonies	3,237	or ·2	6,521	or ·4
Other Countries	271,026	or 18·7	291,636	or 16·6

It will be seen that since 1895 the United Kingdom has lost 2·8 per cent. of the import trade as against a gain of 4·7 per cent. by the United States.

The figures grouped in the classes required by the Board of Trade show the following increases and decreases as compared with 1903:—

—	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
Class I.— Live animals, food, drink and narcotics.	689,593	671,271	—	18,332
Class II.— Raw materials	74,551	102,696	28,145	—
Class III.— Manufactured materials ...	—	—	100,212	—
Class IV.— Coin, bullion and specie of all kinds.	250,538	124,846	—	125,692

The imports of raw materials consisted of mahogany, cedar, logwood, rubber, chicle, &c., and were the result of the operations of woodcutters of the Colony on the Mexican side of the Rio Hondo and in Guatemala. These imports were reshipped to the United Kingdom and the United States.

The decrease in the imports of bullion and coin was due, no doubt, to a reduction in the strength of the Mexican military forces on the Rio Hondo, and to the fact that whereas formerly supplies for the Forces were obtained through Belize and paid for in Mexican silver, they are now obtained direct from Mexico.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom and their value are given below:—

Articles.	Value.	Articles.	Value.
From the United Kingdom:	$	From the United States:	$
Beer, cider, &c.	6,170	Cheese	9,342
Clothing	15,654	Clothing	9,010
Confectionery	6,593	Coal	4,244
Cotton goods	126,247	Coffee	5,818
Drugs and chemicals ...	3,207	Flour	103,135
Earthenware and glassware.	3,415	Cotton goods	165,046
Hats	9,448	Drugs, &c.	23,675
Hardware and cutlery ...	24,045	Earthen and glass ware.	4,285
Iron roofing	7,162	Fish (salt)	3,790
Paints, &c.	8,682	Furniture	5,206
Perfumery	3,672	Hats	6,120
Provisions (tinned) ...	74,166	Hardware and cutlery...	36,534
Rice	28,694	Hay, &c.	6,605
Rope and twine... ...	3,817	Jewellery, &c.	3,787
Saddlery and harness ...	3,131	Lamps, &c.	3,835
Salt	2,064	Lard	11,911
Silks	7,755	Lumber...	20.722
Soap	21,205	Machinery	10,795
Spirits	9,154	Matches	4,135
Tea	7,301	Oils (mineral)	33,278
Woollen goods	18,748	Paints	2,208
Wines	12,327	Provisions (tinned) ...	90,485
		Rope	11,502
From the United States:		Saddlery, &c.	1,562
Bacon and hams ...	23,704	Soap	3,911
Beer, &c.	7,718	Perfumery	5,535
Beef and pork	73,735	Spirits	12,468
Boots, &c.	78,783	Sugar	11,141
Butter	24,488	Tobacco	12,500

The United States would appear to be supplying from year to year a larger proportion of articles which formerly were obtained chiefly from the United Kingdom. The figures given in the following table on this head are instructive:—

—	United Kingdom.		Increase.	Decrease.	United States.		Increase.
	1895.	1904.			1895.	1904.	
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Cotton goods	91,284	126,247	34,963	—	45,725	165,046	119,321
Drugs and chemicals ...	4,046	3,207	—	839	8,869	23,675	14,806
Hardware and cutlery	28,100	24,045	—	4,055	15,832	36,534	20,702
Provisions (tinned) ...	37,648	74,166	36,518	—	49,194	90,485	41,291
Rope and twine ...	5,280	3,817	—	1,463	2,713	11,502	8,789

The imports from foreign countries other than the United States were principally live stock, cigarettes, cigars, and coffee from Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala; and cotton goods, earthenware, glassware, hardware, cutlery, spirits, and wines from Germany and France.

The customs duty collected during 1904, exclusive of export duty on mahogany and logwood, amounted to $156,424, as against $154,607 in 1903, and $125,818 in 1902.

The total value of the exports for the year amounted to $1,863,871, or $10,690 in excess of the value in 1903. Excluding bullion and coin, the exports show an increase of $239,566 over 1903, and $420,684 over the average for the previous nine years.

As compared with 1903, the export trade shows the following increases and decreases:—

		$
United Kingdom	Increase	79,166
British Colonies	„	7,735
France	„	3,786
Guatemala	„	16,722
Honduras	„	41,981
Other Countries	„	30,476
United States	Decrease	135,254
Germany	„	7,200
Mexico	„	20,900
Russia	„	5,822

The exports grouped in the classes required by the Board of Trade show a decrease in the produce of the Colony under "Live Animals, Food, Drink, and Narcotics," of $34,342 and an increase of $83,992 in "Raw Materials," as compared with 1903. The former is due to the falling off in the exports of fruit, and the latter to the larger output of mahogany and chicle.

The following is a statement of the quantity and value of the principal items of produce exported during the last ten years:—

—	1895.		1896.		1897.		1898.		1899.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	2,868,346	151,290	2,769,676	186,682	6,777,382	403,270	7,630,252	471,279	6,499,168	378,675
Cedar...	62,965	2,600	33,639	1,873	234,376	12,251	316,113	15,401	351,149	25,456
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	30,830	699,525	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223	24,099	550,569
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.	
Bananas	454,316	93,070	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225	272,898	75,444
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	1,044,020	5,232	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509	1,506,750	12,498
Cocoanuts	1,440,816	14,578	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996	2,609,831	25,569
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	17,381	6,878	19,895	5,979	13,797	6,178	37,622	19,103	55,321	30,944
Chicle	105,478	34,479	925,199	96,408	255,945	51,731	255,263	36,458	260,448	33,928
Sarsaparilla	13,254	4,007	7,437	1,932	5,607	1,153	15,955	3,690	14,317	2,895
Tortoise shell ...	4,174	18,957	3,203	15,055	3,458	13,726	4,197	17,673	3,878	16,043

Quantity and value of the principal items of produce exported—*cont.*

—	1900.		1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	7,994,378	438,589	6,485,952	359,220	6,043,821	326,658	9,358,776	492,554	9,811,680	574,548
Cedar	400,611	19,714	421,231	20,977	486,356	24,660	706,533	35,505	758,651	36,279
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	20,521	442,986	19,682	376,569	15,200	302,366	14,205	274,303	11,381	205,515
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs	
Bananas	365,972	91,105	538,751	152,514	438,200	107,805	524,811	158,913	508,200	127,450
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	2,106,300	17,995	1,883,450	14,988	1,624,310	13,168	2,243,350	17,885	2,033,500	15,291
Cocoanuts	2,407,130	26,044	3,265,357	41,114	3,767,175	36,865	3,738,264	47,822	3,391,250	48,074
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	48.996	13,391	40,044	23,237	30,338	14,163	22,176	13,002	28,042	18,262
Chicle	260,848	33,978	136,391	24,342	252,933	38,185	409,508	74,951	773,323	171,806
Sarsaparilla	8,947	1,761	7,515	737	2,797	688	3,597	766	3,784	941
Tortoise shell ...	2,692	12,543	2,971	14,562	3,297	14,335	2,737	14,507	2,272	12,272

As compared with 1903 the following increases and decreases appear:—

—	1903.	1904.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.	Ft.
Mahogany	9,358,776	9,811,680	452,904	—
Cedar	706,533	758,651	52,118	—
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
Logwood	14,205	11,381	—	2,824
	Bchs.	Bchs.	Bchs.	Bchs.
Bananas	524,811	508,200	—	16,611
	No.	No.	No.	No.
Plantains	2,243,350	2,033,500	—	209,850
Cocoanuts	3,738,264	3,391,250	—	347,014
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Rubber	22,176	28,042	5,866	—
Chicle	409,508	773,323	363,815	—
Sarsaparilla	3,597	3,784	187	—
Tortoise shell	2,737	2,272	—	465

The large increase in the output of mahogany and cedar during the last two years is due to the operations of the branches of two American woodcutting firms established in Belize.

The decrease in logwood is largely owing, no doubt, to the low prices prevailing during the last few years.

The year 1904 was a year of floods. To this cause must be attributed the decreased output in bananas and plantains.

The produce of the Colony was taken by the following countries:—

Articles.		Quantity.	Value.
United States—			$
Mahogany	Ft.	5,087,301	313,751
Cedar...	Ft.	689,323	32,780
Logwood	Tons.	806	12,090
Bananas	Bchs.	508,200	127,450
Plantains	Nos.	2,020,000	15,218
Cocoanuts	Nos.	2,999,450	43,162
Rubber	Lbs.	28,042	18,262
Chicle	Lbs.	765,079	170,572
Sarsaparilla	Lbs.	54	11

Produce taken by the following countries—*cont.*

Articles.		Quantity.	Value.
United Kingdom—			
Mahogany	Ft.	4,528,277	249,031
Cedar	Ft.	66,674	3,340
Logwood	Tons.	7,720	144,675
Chicle	lbs.	8,244	1,234
Tortoise Shell	lbs.	2,272	12,272
Sarsaparilla	lbs.	3,730	930
France—			
Mahogany	Ft.	196,102	11,766
Cedar	Ft.	2,654	159
Logwood	Tons.	2,150	38,175
Russia—			
Logwood	Tons.	705	10,575
Honduras—			
Cocoanuts	No.	391,800	4,912
Mexico—			
Plantains	No.	13,500	73

The export duty of 75 cents per 1,000 feet on mahogany and 25 cents per ton on logwood amounted during 1904 to $10,225, as against $10,057 in 1903.

As compared with other years, the trade of the Colony for the past two years has shown marked prosperity. The value of the total volume of trade in 1903 was $3,626,157, and in 1904, $3,621,190. In 1895 it was $2,737,638, and in 1902, $2,590,013. This improved state of trade is undoubtedly owing to the increased activity in the woodcutting and chicle industries which has been the result of the introduction of American capital.

(B.) MINES, MANUFACTURES AND FISHERIES.

There are no mines in the Colony.

The returns show 51 sugar mills in operation, six being worked by steam and 45 by cattle or mules. There are also 15 stills for manufacturing rum, one steam corn mill, and one coffee mill.

There are now no large plantations in the Colony devoted to the cultivation of the sugar cane. Formerly sugar was an important item in the export trade of British Honduras, but, after experiencing the many vicissitudes incidental to a depressed market, it disappeared altogether in 1901 from the list of exports.

The value of home-grown sugar exported in 1877 was £30,926; the value in 1892 was £610; and in 1900 the value was £167. From the 15th May, 1900, until 1903, no sugar appears to have been exported.

In 1903, however, the product reappeared on the list of exports, the value of the quantity exported in that year being $7,249. Sugar was again exported in 1904, the value being $6,324.

It is possible that, as an effect of the Sugar Convention, the sugar industry in British Honduras may be rehabilitated; but, owing to the complete abandonment of the old plantations, some years will probably elapse before the Colony will be in a position to export sugar in any considerable quantity.

The sponge fishery only yielded 882 lbs. The exports of tortoise shell amounted to 2,272 lbs.

(C.) Agricultural Industries and Botanical Stations.

There is no country in Central America more favourably situated for building up a fruit trade with the United States than British Honduras, but the fruit-growing lands, owing to the want of communication, are as yet but very partially developed. Most of the bananas grown in the Colony are produced in the Stann Creek District, and, during the last two or three years, there has been a tendency to increase the area of cultivation in that district.

At present bananas are planted on the low-lying lands along the banks of the rivers, which are subject to the invasion of floods when the rivers rise above the normal level. During 1904 such plantations suffered considerably in consequence of floods. As the rivers are the only means of transport at present, planters are unable to establish themselves on the higher lands further inland. When these lands are tapped by railways there will be more security for investing capital in the growing of fruit.

The demand for cocoanuts during 1904 was exceptionally good and high prices were paid.

Several cacao plantations are now established in the Colony, and some are producing good crops. Whereas a few years ago cacao was imported from London to supply local requirements, it is satisfactory to note that during 1904 British Honduras was not only able to satisfy home demands but to export the produce.

Several banana growers have taken up the cultivation of cacao.

In parts of the Colony the soil is well adapted for the production of coffee. The industry, however, is still undeveloped. A plantation in the Toledo District is the only one of any pretensions. The planters of Mullins River cultivate small patches of the product for their own use.

There is plenty of land in the Colony capable of producing good tobacco, but only a comparatively few people in the northern districts pay any attention to its cultivation. The little produced is consumed locally.

Further efforts were made during 1904 to establish a cotton industry. Two of the largest landowners in the north cleared and prepared about 40 acres of land for the purpose of growing cotton, and some seed was planted. The results were not satisfactory. Most of the seed failed to grow, and those plants which did well were damaged by excessive rains.

Maize is produced plentifully wherever an Indian population is settled. It is their main article of diet.

Many nutmeg plants which were introduced into the Colony and distributed by the Botanic Stations are beginning to bear fruit. The climate and soil of British Honduras appears to be favourable to this product.

Botanic Stations.

Much useful and important work was done in the nursery attached to the Botanic Station in Belize during the year, and a great number of plants were raised and distributed to meet the requirements of the planting season. The list is as follows:—

Cacao	2,144
Logwood	6,600
Coffee	300
Nutmegs	242
Rubber	50
Fruit and shade trees	531
Ornamental plants	759
Total	10,626

Many valuable economic plants have been established at the Stann Creek nursery. Among them may be mentioned the Para rubber tree, kola nut, star apple, nutmeg, and cinnamon.

At the Corosal Station attention is given chiefly to the cultivation of short crops, such as corn, arrowroot, ginger, peanuts, and vegetables.

(D.) Land Grants and Value of Land.

The total area of Crown lands sold during 1904 was 2,270 acres 1 rood and 21 perches, and comprised 13 sections and 6 building lots. In 1903, 818 acres 1 rood and 28 perches, in 18 sections and 3 building lots were alienated. The standard price of Crown land in rural areas continues at $1 per acre.

Leases.

At the end of the year the area under lease was 21,379 acres in 514 rural sections, distributed as follows:—

District.	Sections.	Acres.
Belize	98	5,898
Corosal	43	1,371
Orange Walk	15	118
Stann Creek	120	4,786
Toledo	208	7,726
Cayo	30	1,480
Total	514	21,379

In addition to the acreage tabulated in the foregoing statement, there were 663 lots on long leases, as well as a considerable number on annual tenancy in the towns and villages of Mullins River, Stann Creek, Monkey River, Punta Gorda, Baranco, Seine Bight, Consejo, and Rancho Dolores. There was also a conditional lease at Monkey River, estimated to contain 56½ square miles.

The rents received from Crown lands in the towns of Stann Creek, Mullins River, Punta Gorda, and Monkey River are paid into the funds of the District Boards for local purposes.

The following statement shows the revenue received from licences to cut timber, bleed rubber, &c., during the last ten years:—

Year.	Revenue.
	$
1895	4,304.70
1896	7,769.62
1897	10,764.76
1898	12,815.77
1899	6,018.02
1900	6,414.71
1901	3,889.94
1902	10,378.62
1903	27,237.47
1904	7,046.80

The total revenue derived from Crown lands during 1904, including timber, &c., but excluding rents paid to District Boards, was $12,658.42, as against $31,700.82 in 1903, and $13,678.23 in 1902.

At the end of the year there were 199 sections, aggregating 9,602 acres of land, sold or leased in the various districts remaining to be surveyed.

(E.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900	338	24,371	214	146,546
1901	404	27,076	291	179,846
1902	523	18,472	263	189,643
1903	591	15,292	317	236,767
1904	487	13,782	289	239,117

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900	320	22,919	214	146,261
1901	409	26,986	295	180,887
1902	508	19,662	265	188,643
1903	572	16,485	307	234,203
1904	501	14,406	268	236,252

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900	124	8,617	51	990	26	10,334
1901	178	6,779	66	1,506	33	13,169
1902	322	7,051	52	774	18	7,211
1903	398	7,974	36	968	10	3,722
1904	321	8,414	8	702	2	801

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900	129	8,774	44	841	24	9,479
1901	179	7,387	59	1,099	30	11,934
1902	330	6,678	30	603	21	8,560
1903	379	8,391	22	822	12	4,512
1904	320	8,640	10	719	2	865

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900	35	51,666	104	56,627	69	33,905
1901	55	74,826	128	61,418	107	43,596
1902	66	92,876	102	55,259	95	41,508
1903	106	117,358	80	43,199	125	75,855
1904	134	160,751	35	4,467	116	70,427

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1900	36	51,423	103	56,586	69	35,904
1901	53	73,665	134	63,374	107	43,843
1902	69	94,124	100	52,689	95	41,825
1903	104	115,991	76	40,948	124	76,940
1904	130	161,465	21	3,521	107	65,088

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were added to the Statute Book in 1904.

Ordinance No. 6 enacts that all capital charges shall be tried at Belize, unless the Chief Justice order otherwise.

Ordinance No. 8 amends the law of evidence, and contains, with modifications to suit local circumstances, the provisions of the (Imperial) Criminal Evidence Act, 1898.

Ordinance No. 18 gives effect to the provisions of the Sugar Convention signed on the 5th March, 1902.

Ordinance No. 20 amends the law relating to the registration of medical practitioners, and equalises the conditions under which British and foreign practitioners are admitted to practise in the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in force in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The members of the Board who are not *ex officio* are representatives of the various religious denominations. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on their average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants to schools in out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1904 was $13,342.04, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	12,015.37
Grants on account of pupil teachers ...	723.51
Needlework grants	138.00
Carried forward	12,876.88

Amount Expended on Primary Schools during 1904—cont.

	$
Brought forward	12,876.88
Bonuses on examination results for the year 1903 paid at 75 per cent. of rates	465.16
Total	13,342.04

This amount was distributed among the districts as follows:—

	$
Belize	7,948.42
Corosal	1,116.60
Orange Walk	1,483.90
Stann Creek	1,832.16
Toledo	885.68
Cayo	75.28
Total	13,342.04

The total cost for the year of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony was $26,269.83. Of this sum the Government contributed $15,074.61, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	13,342.04
Expenses of administration	1,732.57
Total	15,074.61

The cost per head on the total average attendance (2,580) was $10.18. This was in excess of the cost either in 1902 or 1903, as will be seen from the following table:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government	6.00	5.65	5.84
School Fees	·88	1.01	·99
Voluntary Contributions	2.96	3.28	3.35
Totals	9.84	9.94	10.18

The number of primary schools receiving Government aid during 1904 was 39. The number in 1903 was 37 and in 1902, 39. At the close of 1904 the schools were distributed throughout the Colony as follows:—

District.	Number.	Totals.
Belize District—		
Town of Belize	11	
Out Districts	5	
Cays...	2	
		18
Corosal District—		
Town of Corosal	3	
Out Districts	2	
		5
Orange Walk District—		
Town of Orange Walk	2	
Out Districts	4	
		6
Stann Creek District—		
Town of Stann Creek	2	
Out Districts	3	
		5
Toledo District—		
Town of Punta Gorda	1	
Out Districts	1	
Monkey River	2	
		4
Cayo District	—	1
Grand Total	—	39

Sources of Education Revenue.

Denominations.	Number of Schools.	Number of children on roll.	Average Attendance.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Total.	Percentages.			Receipt of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.
								of Government Grants.	of School Fees.	of Voluntary Contributions.	
				$	$	$	$				$
Church of England ...	8	648	427	2,449.30	639.10	3,228.28	6,316.68	38.77	10.12	51.11	1.49
Roman Catholic ...	15	1,456	1,140	5,408.57	895.33	2,621.25	8,925.15	60.60	10.03	29.37	·78
Wesleyan	12	1,067	729	4,226.08	740.09	1,958.52	6,924.69	61.03	10.69	28.28	1.01
Baptist	2	220	161	894.18	150.26	655.99	1,700.43	52.58	8.84	38.58	·93
Non-denominational ...	2	185	123	363.91	135.60	60.00	559.51	65.04	24.23	10.73	1.10
Totals	39	3,576	2,580	13,342.04	2,560.38	8,524.04	24,426.46	54.62	10.48	34.90	·99

Comparative Statement of Numbers, Attendances, and Contributions from 1900 *to* 1904.

Year.	Number of Schools.	Number of Children on Register.	Average Daily Attendance.	Percentage of Average Attendance to Number on Register.	Average School Days.	Government Grants.	School Fees.	Voluntary Contributions.	Grant per caput on Average Daily Attendance.
						$	$	$	$
1900	38	2,391	2,383	70·30	188	11,245.53	2,312.53	9,101.38	4.76
1901	36	3,423	2,328	68·01	189	12,030.08	2,230.00	8,584.71	5.16
1902	39	3,646	2,560	70·32	184	13,619.40	2,268.98	7,565.56	6.00
1903	37	3,444	2,517	73·08	195	12,541.16	2,554.65	8,267.76	4.98
1904	39	3,576	2,580	72·14	190	13,342.04	2,560.38	8,524.04	5.17

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums and Poor-House.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1904:—

Institutions.	Remained at beginning of 1904.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1904.	Average, Daily.
Belize Hospital ...	41	508	417	90	42	36·39
Corosal Hospital ...	8	149	131	20	6	10·17
Orange Walk Hospital	4	69	66	6	1	2·77
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	39	9	2	9	37	37·30
Poor-house ...	27	15	3	7	32	30·80

Savings Banks.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The savings bank at Belize was established in 1846, and had at the end of the year 1904 437 depositors.

The total amount at the credit of all depositors in the savings banks of the Colony at 31st December, 1904, was $63,309.07, as against $60,301.21 in 1903.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $60,373.75.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are seven Friendly Societies in Belize, two of which have not furnished returns for the Blue Book. The remaining five show the total number of members at the end of 1904 to be 270, and the total amount of funds invested to be $3,244.75.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

On the 1st January, 1904, the strength of the Police Force was one superintendent, two assistants, and 110 non-commissioned officers and men, or three short of the authorised strength. On the 31st December, 1904, the Force consisted of 112 of all ranks.

As a rule the recruits enlisted during 1904 compared favourably with those of previous years.

On the 31st December, 1904, the Force was distributed among the districts as follows:—

Belize	60
Corosal	14
Orange Walk	19
Stann Creek	7
Toledo	8
Cayo	4
Total	112

Out of the total number of 60 of all ranks stationed in the Belize District 57 were on duty in the town of Belize.

The discipline of the Force throughout the year was good.

The Police Reward Fund increased from $1,679.38 to $1,998.32.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons of the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize prison from 1900 to 1904:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1900	286	51·34
1901	321	45·31
1902	322	43·48
1903	367	49·31
1904	250	58·41

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1904 was 1,297, or 30 more than in 1903. The number of persons summarily convicted was 888, or 21 less than in 1903.

Informations were filed against 66 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 46 cases, and for the prisoner in 14. A nolle prosequi was entered by the Attorney-General in 6 cases.

There was 1 conviction for murder and 1 for attempted murder. Fifteen convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, 24 for offences against property, and 5 for miscellaneous offences.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated mean population for the year was 39,688, consisting of 20,228 males and 19,440 females.

The birth-rate was 37·81 and the mortality 24·93 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 668 out of a total of 1,500. The following table shows the rate per cent. of illegitimate births during the past eight years:—

Year.	Per cent.
1897	36·31
1898	37·51
1899	39·85
1900	42·08
1901	43·12
1902	44·99
1903	46·73
1904	44·54

386 marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·73 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last ten years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000
1895 ...	1,355	40·626	348	1,029	31·122
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42·208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810
1900 ...	1,478	39·948	339	890	24·055
1901 ...	1,489	39·548	312	1,069	28·393
1902 ...	1,467	38·287	339	1,058	27·613
1903 ...	1,513	38·806	351	1,043	26·75
1904 ...	1,500	37·81	386	989	24·93

During 1904 the excess of male over female births was 92, and of male over female deaths 67.

(B.) Public Health.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Mortality from some of the Principal Diseases in the Colony, 1895–1904.

Years.	Diseases.										
	Malarial Fevers.	Dysentery.	Small-pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.	Total Death-rate.
1895	10·470	2·389	—	—	—	1·415	2·949	·708	1·563	1·475	30·614
1896	9·227	1·763	—	—	—	·852	3·252	·412	1·175	1·969	28·318
1897	9·924	1·966	—	—	—	1·139	3·646	·940	1·282	1·427	28·821
1898	10·880	1·536	—	—	—	1·547	3·534	·510	2 602	1·343	32·069
1899	9·241	1·954	—	—	—	1·541	3·603	·441	4·703	2·503	32·759
1900	8·677	1·108	—	—	—	1·081	3·379	·784	1·755	1·622	24·055
1901	9·428	1·593		—	—	0·903	2·841	·982	1·726	1·965	28·393
1902	8·865	1·331		—	—	0·991	1·570	1·070	1·931	2·192	27·613
1903	8·697	1·001	—	—	—	1·385	2·771	·487	1·616	1·745	26·750
1904	8·117	0·957	—	—	—	1·260	2·167	·534	1·436	2·142	24·931

Mortality and Birth-rate expressed in Rates per 1,000 *per annum of the Estimated Mean Annual Population (compiled by the Colonial Surgeon).*

Principal causes of Death.	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	The Colony.
Malarial fevers ...	3·341	12·771	11·842	5·280	12·150	10·605	8·117
Dysentery	·477	1·146	1·532	·960	·639	2·052	0 957
Phthisis	1·841	·982	·835	1·680	·213	1·026	1·260
Nervous diseases ...	2·932	2·619	2·507	·720	1·065	·342	2·167
Circulatory „ ...	·954	·163	·139	—	·852	·684	0·554
Respiratory „ ...	1·968	1·309	·835	1·680	2·344	·684	1·436
Intestinal „ ...	2·591	2·456	·835	1·680	2·984	1·710	2·142
Rate of Deaths ...	24·482	28 981	23·684	20·648	27·497	23·268	24·981
Rate of Births ...	39,348	40·827	29·814	41·526	32·613	40·712	37·813
Estimated population	14,663	6,107	7,177	4,166	4,623	2,932	39,668

Of the 989 deaths registered, 311, or 31·45 per cent., were certified by medical practitioners, as compared with 286, or 27·42 per cent., in 1903.

Of the remaining deaths, 614, or 62·08 per cent., were uncertified, whilst 30 were certified to by District Commissioners or the police, and 34 by coroners after inquiry.

At the close of the year 1904 there were 10 names on the medical register.

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1900-1904 inclusive, according to their race classification:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1900–1904.
Indian	107·47
Carib...	41·45
Negro	51·52
Other Races...	66·81

(C.) CLIMATE.

The temperature and rainfall for each month of the year 1904 in Belize is shown below:—

Month.	Temperature.		Rainfall.	Number of days on which rain fell.
	Maximum.	Minimum.		
	°	°	ins.	
January ...	87	60	1·56	5
February ...	87·5	60	6·59	9
March... ...	89	64	1·45	2
April	90	65	6·66	12
May	92·6	68	11·17	9
June	91·5	67	16·27	17
July	89	64	9·95	11
August ...	90	68	10·28	13
September ...	91	68	3·04	6
October ...	90	65	7·35	11
November ...	89·6	64	6·55	12
December ...	87·5	58	6·60	12
	—	—	87·00	119

The average rainfall for the 22 years 1883-1904, in Belize was 80·8 inches; the maximum—114·12 inches—being in 1900; and the minimum—55·29 inches—in 1893.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall, in Inches.	No. of Days on which rain fell.
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116
1902 ...	65·89	107
1903 ...	70·90	118
1904 ...	87	119

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the post office for the calendar year 1904 was $11,351.94.

The total expenditure of $22,837.98 was distributed as follows:

	$	$
Extra Colonial :—		
Subsidy	12,000.00	
Transit dues	396.11	
		12,396.11
Intra Colonial :—		
Salaries and wages	3,707.94	
Northern subsidy	5,198.31	
Southern subsidy	412.00	
Various services	1,123.62	
		10,441.87
Total		22,837.98

The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1900 to 1904 was as follows:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Ordinary letters ...	141,860	138,359	137,185	142,020	152,960
Registered letters ...	8,268	8,932	7,546	8,104	7,951
Post-cards	4,271	4,591	4,168	7,775	12,053
Newspapers, books, &c.	97,989	91,748	88,655	94,777	100,347
Postal parcels... ...	2,063	2,064	2,516	2,862	3,484

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Letters	58,579	61,842	62,965	66,749	68,886
Post-cards	1,279	1,281	1,100	2,444	1,375
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	8,113	9,702	8,655	11,803	9,994

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1902 to 1904 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1902	1,494 13 0
1903	1,095 13 0
1904	1,441 6 7

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1902	3,730.75
1903	3,846.63
1904	4,415.44

Money Orders drawn on the Colony.

Year.	Amount.
	£ s. d.
1902	405 7 4
1903	247 18 2
1904	229 5 2

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1902	1,670.80
1903	333.55
1904	404.61

The telegraph and telephone transactions for the year were as follows:—

Office.	Despatched Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
Belize	3,020	881	3,901
Bakers	241	5	246
Orange Walk	1,829	621	2,450
Corosal	817	628	1,445
Consejo	237	127	364
Mullins River	112	7	119
Stann Creek	447	99	546
All Pines	122	5	127
Monkey River	91	30	121
Punta Gorda	10	19	29
	6,926	2,422	9,348

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

VOLUNTEERS.

Interest in the Volunteer Force which had been languishing at the opening of the year revived towards its close. Recruiting improved, and many of the men who joined were drawn from the Government Civil Service.

During the latter part of the year a mounted infantry section was formed. This body of men has proved to be a great addition to the Force, setting an excellent example for keenness, energy, and smartness.

The strength of the Force on the 31st December, 1904, was 8 officers and 203 non-commissioned officers and men, showing an increase, as compared with the strength on the 31st December, 1903, of 1 officer and 35 of other ranks.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

(A.) Important Events.

Mr. H. E. Dale, of the Colonial Office, whose visit to the Colony in December, 1903, was referred to in the Report on the Blue Book for that year, stayed in British Honduras till the 18th January, 1904, during which time he conferred with the Colonial Government respecting the public expenditure and the measures to be adopted for developing the resources of the Colony. Mr. Dale also enquired into the working of the public departments, with a view, if possible, to effecting retrenchment. His report, dated the 15th March, 1904, was made public in November last.

Mr. P. C. Cork, Colonial Secretary, who had been administering the Government since May, 1903, continued to act as Governor until the 31st October, 1904, when the administration was assumed by Mr. (now Sir Bickham) Sweet-Escott.

On the 14th September, 1904, an agreement was concluded by the Government with Mr. Buckner Chipley, of Pensacola, Florida, under which Mr. Chipley was granted the exclusive right for a period of 26 years to appropriate for his own use and benefit all pine trees exceeding 8 inches in diameter at the butt, growing upon such parts of the Crown Lands of the Colony as are pine ridge or broken ridge lands (certain areas excepted) in consideration of the payment of the sum of $125,000, by five instalments of $25,000 each, at specified times, within 27 months from the date of the agreement. Of this amount the grantee is entitled to recover a sum not exceeding $25,000, in certain contingencies. Operations under this agreement have not yet been begun.

The telephone line from Belize to Punta Gorda, the proposed construction of which was referred to in the last Blue Book Report, has been completed and has proved to be a great public convenience. The local circuit in Belize is approaching completion.

(B.) Public Works.

During the year, Mr. Alex. M. Lane, M.Inst.C.E., who had arrived in the Colony in 1903, continued to advise the Government, in his capacity as advisory engineer, as to the measures to be adopted to promote the development of the Colony.

Before the close of 1904 the following reports had been received from Mr. Lane:—

1. Preliminary report on Sennis Bay light railway project, with observations on Stann Creek, Commerce Bight, &c., dated the 11th July, 1903.
2. Report on the condition of the roads between Belize and the western frontier, with suggestions for their improvement, dated the 18th July, 1903.
3. Report on the condition of the Belize River, with suggestions for improving its navigation, dated the 31st July, 1903.
4. Report on the condition of the bar of the River Hondo, dated the 21st September, 1903.
5. Report on the kind of communication best adapted for connecting Belize with agricultural lands, dated the 7th October, 1903.
6. Report containing suggestions for developing the Stann Creek valley, dated the 5th December, 1903.
7. Report as to the most convenient and economical manner of excavating a channel through the bar of the River Hondo, dated the 8th March, 1904.
8. Report on the Wellsport and Bladen railway and harbour project, dated the 26th April, 1904.
9. Report on the Commerce Bight and Stann Creek railway project, dated the 30th July, 1904.
10. Report on the subject of roads out of Belize, dated the 20th August, 1904.
11. General report respecting the development of the Colony by means of public works, dated 27th September, 1904.
12. Report on the proposed improvement of Belize Harbour, dated 8th November, 1904.

It is hoped that it may be possible to carry out several of Mr. Lane's recommendations at no distant date.

(C.) Future Prospects.

British Honduras is a Colony of great possibilities. It is a land of forests and rivers, of wide areas of virgin soil, and, possibly, of mineral wealth. It may be safely predicted that in the course of time, when exploited by capital, the Colony will hold its own as a rich possession of His Majesty. In a country the size of Wales, with a present population of less than 40,000 souls, advancement in material welfare must necessarily be slow, but the forward movement has lately been distinctly accelerated. Surveys have been made, plans completed, and specifications drawn up, of more than one line of railway running from the coast to the interior, and there is good prospect of railway construction being undertaken in the early future.

H. E. W. GRANT,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Belize, 17th July, 1905.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony.	Year.
428	Bahamas...	1903–1904
429	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1903
430	Mauritius	"
431	Seychelles	"
432	Barbados	1903–1904
433	Southern Nigeria	1903
434	Fiji	"
435	Straits Settlements	"
436	Grenada	"
437	Northern Nigeria	"
438	Jamaica	1903–1904
439	Malta	"
440	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1902–1903 & 1903–1904
441	British Guiana	1903–1904
442	Trinidad and Tobago	"
443	St. Lucia	1903
444	Basutoland	1903–1904
445	Leeward Islands	"
446	St. Vincent	"
447	Bermuda	1904
448	St. Helena	"
449	Falkland Islands	"
450	Weihaiwei	"
451	Hong Kong	"
452	Gambia	"
453	Gibraltar	"
454	Turks and Caicos Islands	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
23	Dominica	Roads and Land Settlement.
24	Grenada	Land Settlement in Carriacou.
25	Hong Kong	Bubonic Plague, 1903.
26	Northern Nigeria	Mineral and Vegetable Products
27	Miscellaneous Colonies ...	Medical Reports.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.

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1905.

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Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 515.

844
215

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1905.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 455.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1907.

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DEC 12 1908
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No. 515.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1904, *see* No. 455.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Belize,
26th November, 1906.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward the Colonial Secretary's Annual Report for the year 1905.

I have, &c.,

E. J. E. SWAYNE, Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

1125 Wt 24282 1/07 D & S 5 26806

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1905.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1905. The other returns are for the calendar year 1905.

On 1st April, 1904, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $119,380.52.

(A.) Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1903-4 and 1904-5, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1903-04.	Amount collected in the year 1904-05.
	$	$
1. Customs	171,219.00	166,958.85
2. Light Dues	8,423.47	8,600.84
3. Internal Taxation	60,454.41	57,731.82
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	21,991.17	8,151.48
4a. Revenues of Government Property (special).	—	25,000.00
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	19,830.02	22,611.65
6. Post Office and Telegraphs	11,248.09	11,796.98
7. Interest	3,680.73	5,403.48
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	149.54	149.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,741.88	1,291.97
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	298,738.31	307,696.61
10. Sale of Crown Lands	1,955.79	2,094.35
11. Supply of Bronze Coins	500.00	—
Total Revenue	301,194.10	309,790.96
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	25,987.01	27,757.21
Corosal District	2,555.04	5,389.07
Orange Walk District	1,764.41	1,459.51
Stann Creek District	2,035.55	2,199.48
Toledo District	1,963.87	1,751.72
Cayo District	608.00	1,858.50
Total Local Revenue ...	34,913.88	40,415.49
Grand Total	336,107.98	—

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure. 1903–1904.	Expenditure, 1904–1905.
	$	$
1. Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	10,583.19	10,533.19
2. Pensions	9,982.28	11,457.56
3. Governor	6,926.65	10,365.00
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	6,625.61	7,075.43
5. Treasury and Custom House	18,005.85	17,078.42
6. Audit Department	2,283.44	2,433.47
7. Post Office and Telegraphs	22,677.27	22,919.49
8. Judicial	13,934.97	13,748.52
9. District Commissioners	14,771.73	15,000.04
10. Police	40,207.37	40,448.69
11. Volunteer Force	2,033.46	2,431.26
12. Prisons	11,635.36	12,424.97
13. Medical Department	26,673.92	24,487.18
14. Central Board of Health and Quarantine.	34.55	107.68
15. Education...	14,721.17	15,660.33
16. Surveyor-General's Department ...	7,879.23	7,964.88
17. Botanic Station	2,410.94	2,112.02
18. Miscellaneous	5,044.07	5,381.25
29. Lighthouses	4,786.38	4,212.44
20. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,529.41	3,191.31
21. Public Works Recurrent	14,310.96	17,923.88
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	239,057.81	246,957.01
22. Public Works Extraordinary	26,719.13	35,301.90
23. Supply of Bronze Coins...	262.22	—
Total Expenditure ...	266,039.16	282,258.91
Local Expenditure :—		
Belize District	29,015.72	29,656.97
Corosal District	2,547.69	5,106.04
Orange Walk District	1,593.13	1,232.92
Stann Creek District	2,185.29	2,704.20
Toledo District	1,267.73	1,527.12
Cayo District	534.85	986.40
Total Local Expenditure ...	37,144.41	41,213.65
Grand Total	303,183.57	—

COMPARATIVE RETURN OF LOCAL REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

Revenue.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1900-1	24,975	2,972	2,490	2,401	1,705	679	35,222
1901-2	27,861	2,646	2,216	1,863	1,688	457	36,732
1902-3	26,344	3,033	1,469	2,086	1,590	683	35,208
1903-4	25,987	2,555	1,764	2,035	1,964	608	34,913
1904-5	27,757	5,389	1,459	2,199	1,751	1,858	40,415

Expenditure.

Year.	District.						
	Belize.	Corosal.	Orange Walk.	Stann Creek.	Toledo.	Cayo.	Total.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1900-1	26,882	3,586	2,689	4,006	1,209	452	38,824
1901-2	25,621	3,138	4,547	2,163	1,331	645	35,446
1902-3	26,492	2,630	2,100	2,069	2,210	627	36,129
1903-4	29,016	2,547	1,593	2,185	1,268	535	37,144
1904-5	29,656	5,106	1,232	2,704	1,527	986	41,213

(B.) TAXATION.

No alteration was made in taxation.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1900-1 to 1904-5, inclusive, with notes on points of special interest:—

General Revenue.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1900-1	292,689	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901-2	272,142	Includes $10,000 Silver Coin.
1902-3	259,600	
1903-4	301,194	Includes $500 Bronze Coin.
1904-5	309,790	Includes $25,000 first instalment of payment for pine woods under the Chipley Contract.

General Expenditure.

Year.	Amount.	Remarks.
	$	
1900–1	249,186	Includes 9 months of 1900.
1901–2	256,910	Includes $4,229 cost of Silver Coin.
1902–3	252,242	Includes part of cost of Northern Telegraph.
1903–4	266,039	Includes part of cost of Southern Telegraph and of Belize Telephone Service.
1904–5	282,258	Includes part cost of Telegraph and Telephone Systems; light at Rocky Point; removal of obstructions at Little Falls.

(C.) Assets and Liabilities.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1905, in respect of its assets and liabilities, as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1904, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

—	1903–4.	1904–5.
	$	$
Assets	194,048.87	245,658.03
Liabilities	74,668.35	98,745.46
Excess of Assets	119,380.52	146,912.57

At the end of the calendar year 1905 the surplus on general revenue account stood at $186,265.07, of which $65,209.98 was invested. This surplus includes $75,000 paid on account of the Chipley Contract for the sale of pine woods.

(D.) Public Debt.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on 31st March, 1905:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885...	5 per cent. Debentures	27,875
Loan of 1887...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86 ...	43,740
Loan of 1891...	4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86 ...	97,200
	Total	168,815

These debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest of the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1905:—

Loan.	—	Dollars.
Loan of 1885.	Repayable 1916. $27,875=£5,735 12s....	22,239.54
Loan of 1887.	Repayable 1918. £9,000	19,978.51
Loan of 1891.	Repayable 1923. £20,000	26,135.74
	Total Sinking Funds	68,353.99

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $110,000, and is made up as follows:—

Pieces.	Cents.	Dollars.
104,500 @	50	= 52,250
155,000 @	25	= 38,750
126,000 @	10	= 12,600
128,000 @	5	= 6,400
513,500	—	110,000

There is also a bronze cent piece, the number of pieces in circulation being 200,000.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894, currency notes of the following denominations have been issued:—

- One dollar.
- Two dollars.
- Five dollars.
- Ten dollars.
- Fifty dollars.
- One hundred dollars.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1905, was $100,129, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in the Colony $72,885, $27,244 having been remitted for investment in England, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1896 to 1905:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	523,208	8,551	790,458	140,420	1,462,637
1897 ...	486,463	8,129	761,768	165,739	1,422,097
1898 ...	420,127	2,723	706,472	119,588	1,248,910
1899 ...	323,493	4,669	615,168	88,143	1,031,473
1900 ...	376,172	2,069	708,403	112,128	1,198,772
1901 ...	373,506	3,941	731,137	118,618	1,227,202
1902 ...	337,300	920	662,624	226,959	1,227,803
1903 ...	463,915	2,592	938,414	368,055	1,772,976
1904 ...	467,449	6,621	991,613	291,636	1,757,319
1905 ...	495,873	9,742	957,481	413,014	1,876,560

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1896 ...	760,522	—	312,997	305,082	1,378,601
1897 ...	769,867	56	238,187	396,279	1,404,387
1898 ...	853,173	531	214,327	214,562	1,282,593
1899 ...	860,378	—	245,864	172,375	1,278,617
1900 ...	613,565	—	352,358	334,642	1,300,565
1901 ...	635,913	—	595,285	156,400	1,387,598
1902 ...	417,262	—	723,059	221,889	1,362,210
1903 ...	339,293	—	1,116,597	397,291	1,853,181
1904 ...	418,459	7,735	981,343	456,334	1,863,871
1905 ...	470,750	17,400	955,595	391,505	1,835,250

The following table shows the countries whence the Colony obtained its supplies, as compared with 1904:—

—	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	467,449	495,873	28,424	—
United States... ...	991,613	957,481	—	34,132
Mexico	174,892	264,999	90,107	—
Honduras	55,313	86,423	31,110	—
Guatemala	6,999	5,130	—	1,869
Germany	27,448	24,396	—	3,052
France	25,511	28,073	2,562	—
British Colonies ...	6,621	9,742	3,121	—
Other Countries ...	1,473	4,443	2,970	—
Totals... ...	1,757,319	1,876,560	158,294	39,053

The total value of the imports in 1905 included $104,100 in bullion and coin, as against $124,846 in 1904.

The following statement shows the percentage of the total value of the imports from the United Kingdom, the United States, British Colonies, and other countries during 1905, as compared with the year 1896:—

—	1896.			1905.		
	$		per cent.	$		per cent.
United Kingdom	523,208	or	35·7	495,873	or	26·4
United States	790,458	or	54·0	957,481	or	51·0
British Colonies	8,551	or	·6	9,742	or	·5
Other Countries	740,420	or	9·6	413,014	or	22·0

The figures, grouped in the classes required by the Board of Trade, show the following increases and decreases as compared with 1904:—

—	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	$	$	$	
Class I.— Live animals, food, drink and narcotics.	671,271	781,104	109,833	—
Class II.— Raw materials	102,696	232,779	130,083	—
Class III.— Manufactured materials ...	858,506	758,577	—	99,929
Class IV.— Coin, bullion and specie of all kinds.	124,846	104,100	—	20,746

The imports of raw materials consisted chiefly of mahogany, logwood, and chicle from Mexico and Guatemala. These imports were re-shipped to the United Kingdom and the United States.

The principal imports from the United Kingdom and the United States, and their value, are given below:—

Article.	United Kingdom.	United States.
	$	$
Aerated Waters	2,595	947
Bacon and hams	213	20,288
Blinds, doors, &c.	—	3,852
Boots and shoes	2,025	58,652
Brushware	122	1,543
Butter	3,399	23,166
Clothing	19,630	9,107
Cheese	3,896	9,916
Confectionery	7,674	3,344
Cotton goods	110,126	125,381
Drugs and chemicals	6,330	23,049
Earthen and glass ware.	5,901	2,191
Flour	253	110,164
Hardware and cutlery	24,656	42,435
Hats	8,046	5,932
Hay and Oats	225	10,675
Indian corn	—	22,255
Iron roofing	15,629	—
Lard	—	13,932
Paints	9,481	2,562
Provisions (tinned)	82,991	86,326
Rice	35,545	4,290
Rope and twine	5,271	14,258
Saddlery and harness	3,494	2,668
Soap	27,242	2,530
Woollen goods	8,099	243
Beef and pork	10	71,915
Beer, &c.	5,697	7,625
Candles (except tallow)	795	3,366
Cigarettes	1,113	2,451
Coffee	—	9,106
Lumber, dressed	—	14,364
" rough	—	9,619
Oils (mineral)	1	27,262
Brandy	1,651	—
Gin	1,646	—
Whiskey	6,963	5,679
Refined sugar	628	14,445
Tea	8,548	4
Tobacco (raw)	—	12,465
Wines	8,231	888
Machinery	6,246	9,644
Railway plant	1,521	9,382
Trucks (for mahogany)	3,754	3,940

The imports from foreign countries other than the United States were principally live stock, cigarettes, cigars, and coffee from Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala; and cotton goods, earthenware, glassware, hardware, cutlery, spirits, and wines from Germany and France.

The Customs duty collected during 1905, exclusive of export duty on mahogany and logwood, amounted to $152,208.09, as against $156,424 in 1904, and $154,607 in 1903.

The total value of the exports was $1,835,250. Exclusive of bullion, the value of the exports was $1,709,536, as against $1,619,873 in 1904.

Exports to the United Kingdom and the United States were of the value of $470,750 and $955,595, respectively, as against $418,459 and $981,343 in 1904.

The following is a statement of the quantity and value of the principal items of produce exported during the last ten years:—

—	1896.		1897		1898.		1899.		1900.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	2,769,676	186,682	6,777,382	403,270	7,630,252	471,279	6,499,168	378,675	7,994,378	438,589
Cedar...	33,639	1,873	234,376	12,251	316,113	15,401	351,149	25,456	400,611	19,714
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	34,539	803,636	29,682	671,492	23,579	499,223	24,099	550,569	20,521	442,986
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.	
Bananas	414,398	94,868	356,852	84,935	309,700	73,225	272,898	75,444	365,972	91,105
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	985,325	9,685	1,110,550	9,735	939,300	7,509	1,506,750	12,498	2,106,300	17,995
Cocoanuts	1,707,041	16,770	1,824,522	19,178	2,119,000	20,996	2,609,831	25,569	2,407,130	26,044
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	19,895	5,979	13,797	6,178	37,622	19,103	55,321	30,944	48,996	13,391
Chicle	925,199	96,408	255,945	51,731	255,263	36,458	260,448	33,928	260,848	33,978
Sarsaparilla	7,437	1,932	5,607	1,153	15,955	3,690	14,317	2,895	8,947	1,761
Tortoise shell ...	3,203	15,055	3,458	13,726	4,197	17,673	3,878	16,043	2,692	12,543

Quantity and value of the principal items of produce exported—*cont.*

—	1901.		1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	6,485,952	359,220	6,043,821	326,658	9,358,776	492,554	9,811,680	574,548	9,957,826	549,099
Cedar	421,231	20,977	486,356	24,660	706,533	35,505	758,651	36,279	415,738	21,239
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	19,682	376,569	15,200	302,366	14,205	274,303	11,381	205,515	9,572	184,229
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs.	
Bananas	538,751	152,514	438,200	107,805	524,811	158,913	508,200	127,450	554,700	149,225
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	1,883,450	14,988	1,624,310	13,168	2,243,350	17,885	2,033,500	15,291	1,665,000	11,806
Cocoanuts	3,265,357	41,114	3,767,175	36,865	3,738,264	47,822	3,391,250	48,074	4,929,700	74,804
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	40,044	23,237	30,338	14,163	22,176	13,002	28,042	18,262	22,926	15,921
Chicle	136,391	24,342	252,933	38,185	409,508	74,951	773,323	171,806	1,523,663	299,009
Sarsaparilla	7,515	737	2,797	688	3,597	766	3,784	941	3,173	592
Tortoise shell ...	2,971	14,562	3,297	14,335	2,737	14,507	2,272	12,272	2,778	14,115

(B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

The export of bananas was the largest on record, notwithstanding the difficulties attending the fruit trade during the latter part of the year. More land is being taken up for the purpose of this cultivation.

A still more satisfactory feature is the increase in the production of cocoanuts. The average export for the years 1896 to 1900 was 2,133,841; for the five years ending 1905, it was 3,818,349. The cultivation is still increasing. Nothing, perhaps, exceeds the cocoanut in securing the financial stability of a Colony.

Serious attention has been given to the establishment of rubber plantations. These are not yet sufficiently advanced to affect the total of the exports, but most of the trees planted are doing well.

The Colony has plenty of land well suited for the cultivation of coffee and cacao. Little has been done in this direction; but the modest attempts at cacao cultivation seem to be successful, as is evidenced by the following comparative table of exports, the produce of the Colony:—

Year.	Produce.
1899	Nil.
1900	892 lbs.
1901	665 „
1902	1,078 „
1903	8,934 „
1904	14,742 „
1905	18,998 „

The following plants were distributed during the year from the botanic stations:—

Plants.	No.
Cacao	700
Logwood	4,600
Coffee	850
Rubber	300
Various fruits, &c.	148
Various ornamental plants	685
Ornamental plants supplies to disused cemeteries	260
Total distributed	7,543

The returns show 57 sugar mills in operation, six being worked by steam. There were also 16 stills for the manufacture of rum. The output of sugar is put at about 500 tons, nearly all consumed locally, a high price being maintained by means of a protective duty on foreign sugar of 2 cents a lb. About 23 tons were exported to Mexico and 3 tons to Honduras.

The sponge fishery yielded only 2,838 lbs.; while the exports of tortoise shell amounted to 2,788½ lbs.

(C.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Ten grants of land were made with an acreage of 949¾ acres, the price for agricultural land being $1 per acre.

The area under lease was 22,800 acres, in 540 holdings producing a rental of $3,105.

The revenue from licences to cut timber was only $3,411, the average of the last four years having been $12,018.

(D.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared, respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1901	404	27,076	291	179,846
1902	523	18,472	263	189,643
1903	591	15,292	317	236,767
1904	487	13,782	289	239,117
1905	464	11,728	270	234,163

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1901	409	26,986	295	180,887
1902	508	19,662	265	188,643
1903	572	16,485	307	234,203
1904	501	14,406	268	236,252
1905	520	11,621	283	238,953

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1901	178	6,779	66	1,506	33	13,169
1902	322	7,051	52	774	18	7,211
1903	398	7,974	36	968	10	3,722
1904	321	8,414	8	702	2	801
1905	263	6,629	61	1,826	1	450

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1901	179	7,387	59	1,099	30	11,934
1902	330	6,678	30	603	21	8,560
1903	379	8,391	22	822	12	4,512
1904	320	8,640	10	719	2	865
1905	284	7,276	50	1,689	—	—

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1901	55	74,826	128	61,418	107	43,596
1902	66	92,876	102	55,259	95	41,508
1903	106	117,358	80	43,199	125	75,855
1904	134	160,751	35	4,467	116	70,427
1905	125	162,016	41	4,330	98	59,641

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1901	53	73,665	134	63,374	107	43,843
1902	69	94,124	100	52,689	95	41,825
1903	104	115,991	76	40,948	124	76,940
1904	130	161,465	21	3,521	107	65,088
1905	124	166,155	45	1,615	105	64,047

III.—LEGISLATION.

Nine Ordinances were enacted during 1905.

Ordinance No. 9 made provision for the grant by the Governor of licences for the construction of private wharves and other constructions on the sea coasts or on the banks of rivers.

The other ordinances were the usual appropriation ordinances, and ordinances amending in some respects the consolidated laws and existing ordinances.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in force in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The members of the Board who are not *ex officio* are representatives of the various religious denominations. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants to schools in out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1905 was $14,749.49, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	12,464.31
Grants on account of pupil teachers ...	1,051.26
Needlework grants	157.50
Bonuses on examination results for the year 1904	616.45
Grants for buildings, furniture, and apparatus	459.97
	$14,749.49

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $27,225.59. Of this sum, the Government contributed $16,317.07, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	14,749.49
Expenses of administration	1,567.48

The cost per head on the total average attendance (2,742) was $9,93. The following statement shows the cost, as compared with the three preceding years:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	$	$	$	$
Paid by Government ...	6.00	5.65	5.84	5·95
School Fees	·88	1.01	·99	·89
Voluntary Contributions ...	2.96	3.28	3.35	3·09
Totals...	9.84	9.94	10.18	9·93

The average attendances during 1903, 1904, and 1905 were 2,517, 2,580, and 2,742 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 41. There were 39 in 1904, and 37 in 1903.

The total number of pupils on the roll was 3,823, as compared with 3,576 in 1904 and 3,444 in 1903.

The average receipt of school fees per head, on the average attendance for the year, is less than that for 1903—when it reached the highest figures shown for several previous years—and for 1904.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table:—

Sources of Education Revenue.

Schools.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Voluntary Contributions.			Receipts of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Church of England ...	456	427	432	$ 614.95	$ 639.10	$ 577.87	2,727.68	$ 3,228.28	$ 2,733.55	$ 1.34	$ 1.49	1.34
Roman Catholic	1,129	1,140	1,240	865.81	895.33	822.51	2,633.77	2,621.25	2,558.15	.76	.78	.66
Wesleyan...	708	729	718	809.64	740.09	650.95	2,162.28	1,958.52	2,714.18	1.14	1.01	.90
Baptist	181	161	185	170.15	150.26	171.60	644.63	688.99	612.00	.94	.93	.93
Non-denominational ...	43	123	167	94.10	135.60	213.00	50.00	60.00	60·00	2.18	1.10	1.27
Totals	2,517	2,580	2,742	2,554.65	2,560.38	2,435.93	8,267.76	8,524.04	8,677·88	1.01	.99	.89

The smallest proportion of fees is received in the Roman Catholic schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to the school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylums, and Poor-house.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1905:—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1905.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1905.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	42	552	456	110	28	40·88
Corosal Hospital ...	9	131	112	21	7	8·70
Orange Walk Hospital	1	93	73	74	7	5·4
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	37	6	—	3	40	37·94
Poor-house ...	32	20	3	24	25	26·24

Savings Banks.

There are six Savings Banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors was 503. Deposits amounted to $15,984.93, and withdrawals to $19,216.99. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1905 was $60,076.71.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $60,373.05.

Friendly Societies.

There are seven Friendly Societies in Belize, three of which have not furnished returns for the Blue Book. The remaining four had a total of 289 members, with invested funds to the amount of $3,509.59.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

On the 1st January, 1905, the strength of the police force was one superintendent, two assistants, and 109 non-commissioned officers and men. During the year the superintendent died, and one assistant was invalided home. The authorised establishment is now one superintendent, one assistant, and 98 non-commissioned officers and men, but additional men have to be engaged for quarantine.

The police reward fund amounted to $2,032.18.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison from 1901 to 1905:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1901	321	45·31
1902	322	43·48
1903	367	49·31
1904	250	58·41
1905	299	54·32

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prison they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ship fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 29 punishments. No corporal punishment has been inflicted on a prisoner since the year 1900. There was one death, from an illness contracted before admission. The health of the prisoners was good; but the keeper of the Belize Prison and the chief warder had bad illnesses, which may have been due to yellow fever.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1905 was 1,244, or 53 less than in 1904. The number of persons summarily convicted was 842, or 46 less than in 1904.

Informations were filed against 37 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 28 cases, and for the prisoner in five. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in two cases. One prisoner was insane and unable to plead, and one case was made a *remanet*.

There was one conviction for manslaughter and one for attempted murder. Fourteen convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, and twelve for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated mean population for the year was 40,372, consisting of 20,617 males and 19,755 females.

The birth rate was 34·75, and the mortality 32·96 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 630, out of a total of 1,403. The following table shows the rate per cent. of illegitimate births during the past nine years:—

Year.	Per cent.
1897	36·31
1898	37·51
1899	39·85
1900	42·08
1901	43·12
1902	44·99
1903	46·73
1904	44·54
1905	44·90

423 marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 10·48 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last ten years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1896 ...	1,435	43·025	288	977	28·893
1897 ...	1,410	40·522	309	1,013	29·524
1898 ...	1,469	42·208	281	1,146	32·905
1899 ...	1,526	43·320	273	1,191	33·810
1900 ...	1,478	39·948	339	890	24·055
1901 ...	1,489	39·548	312	1,069	28·393
1902 ...	1,467	38·287	339	1,058	27·613
1903 ...	1,513	38·806	351	1,043	26·750
1904 ...	1,500	37·81	386	989	24·931
1905 ...	1,403	34·75	423	1,331	32·968

During 1905 the excess of male over female births was 79, and of male over female deaths, 83.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table, prepared by the Registrar-General, furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Mortality from some of the Principal Diseases in the Colony,
1896–1905.

Years.	Diseases.									
	Malarial Fevers.	Dysentery.	Small-pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.
1896	9·227	1·763	—	—	—	·852	3·232	·412	1·175	1·969
1897	9·924	1·966	—	—	—	1·139	3·646	·940	1·282	1·427
1898	10·880	1·536	—	—	—	1·547	3·534	·510	2·602	1·348
1899	9·241	1·954	—	—	—	1·541	3·603	·441	4·703	2·503
1900	8·677	1·108	—	—	—	1·081	3·379	·784	1·755	1·622
1901	9·428	1·593	—	—	—	0·903	2·841	·982	1·726	1·965
1902	8·865	1·331	—	—	—	0·991	1·570	1·070	1·931	2·192
1903	8·697	1·001	—	—	—	1·385	2·771	·487	1·616	1·745
1904	8·117	0·957	—	—	—	1·260	2.167	·534	1·436	2·142
1905	9·338	1·362	—	0·173	—	1·338	1·981	·693	2·006	2·875

Of the 1,331 death registered, 478, or 35·91 per cent., were certified by medical practitioners, as compared with 311, or 31·45 per cent., in 1904.

Of the remaining deaths, 797, or 59·89 per cent., were uncertified, whilst 33 were certified to by District Commissioners or the police, and 23 by coroners after enquiry.

At the close of the year 1905 there were 10 names on the medical register.

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1901-5, inclusive, according to their race classification:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1901–1905.
Indian	115·44
Carib...	46·08
Negro	55·70
Other Races...	75·73

Mortality and Birth-rate expressed in Rates per 1,000 *per annum of the Estimated Mean Annual Population (compiled by the Colonial Surgeon).*

Principal causes of Death.		Belize District.	Corosal District.	Orange Walk District.	Stann Creek District.	Toledo District.	Cayo District.	The Colony.
Malarial fevers ...		3·411	15·407	17·204	5·477	9·269	11·552	9·338
Dysentery		0·535	1·946	2·302	0·481	1·902	2·378	1·362
Yellow fever		0·468	—	—	—	—	—	0·173
Phthisis, pulmonary ...		1·472	2·108	1·490	0·951	0·634	0·340	1·338
Nervous diseases ...		2·609	2·625	1·626	1·189	1·477	0·340	1·981
Circulatory „ ...		0·612	0·649	1·355	0·238	0·844	—	0·693
Respiratory „ ...		0·638	6·325	2·302	1·905	0·422	1·020	2·006
Intestinal „ ...		4·013	5·189	1·490	2·143	0·211	0·680	2·875
Total Rate	Deaths ...	29·843	54·979	36·981	20·958	22·190	27·183	32·968
	Births ...	35·987	32·435	29·125	41·201	32·756	41·454	34·752
Estimated population		14,950	6,166	7,382	4,199	4,732	2,943	40,372

(C.) CLIMATE.

Summary of Meteorological Observations taken at Belize for the year 1905.

Months.	Barometer corrected.		Relative Humidity.		Shade Temperature.		Terrestrial Radiation.		Rain.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	No. of days.	Inches.
January ...	30·228	29·950	97	79	85·5	57·0	73	58	6	3·45
February...	30·187	29·580	98	85	83·5	58·0	71	60	9	4·45
March ...	30·204	29·952	98	82	87	86	72	62	1	1·75
April ...	30·189	29·973	97	71	90·5	64·5	69	62	4	5·48
May ...	30·183	29·931	98	83	89	60	69	63·5	13	8·00
June ...	30·181	29·931	97	83	90	71·5	70	58	10	7·00
July ...	30·104	29·949	100	85	98	72	73·0	61·5	11	8·50
August ...	30·095	29·951	98	82	90	70	74·0	69	13	10·89
September.	30·187	29·833	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11·20
October ...	30·080	29·875	97	80	89	86	73	69	20	26·95
November.	30·344	29·974	98	80	87	68	72	68	14	11·25
December..	30·250	29·954	99	75	85	59	69	55	8	7·50
Year ...	30·228	29·931	100	71	90·5	57	73	55	109	106·42

The average rainfall for the 23 years 1883-1905 in Belize was 81·91 inches; the maximum—114·21 inches—being in 1900, and the mimimum—55·29 inches—in 1893.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall, in Inches.	No. of Days on which rain fell.
1896 ...	73·98	100
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116
1902 ...	65·89	107
1903 ...	70·90	118
1904 ...	87	119
1905 ...	106·42	109

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $13,044.25, as compared with $11,351.94 in 1904.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $14,583.89; and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,000, making a total expenditure of $26,583.79.

The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1901 to 1905 was as follows:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Ordinary letters ...	138,359	137,185	142,020	152,960	157,265
Registered letters ...	8,932	7,546	8,104	7,951	8,015
Post-cards	4,591	4,168	7,775	12,053	18,585
Newspapers, books, &c.	91,748	88,655	94,777	100,347	103,160
Postal parcels... ...	2,064	2,516	2,862	3,484	4,204

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Letters	61,842	62,965	66,749	68,886	67,365
Post-cards	1,281	1,100	2,444	1,375	1,547
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	9,702	8,655	11,803	9,994	9,789

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1902 to 1905 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

Year.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1902	1,494	13	0
1903	1,095	13	0
1904	1,441	6	7
1905	1,476	12	2

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1902	3,730.75
1903	3,846.63
1904	4,415.44
1905	6,470.04

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

Year.	Amount.		
	£	s.	d.
1902	405	7	4
1903	247	18	2
1904	229	5	2
1905	232	15	1

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by the U.S.A.

Year.	Amount.
	$
1902	1,670.80
1903	333.55
1904	404.61
1905	809·65

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1904 and 1905:—

—	1904.			1905.		
	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
Belize	3,020	881	3,901	5,867	3,475	9,342
Haulover	—	—	—	11	—	11
Bakers	241	5	246	352	163	515
Orange Walk ...	1,829	621	2,450	2,446	978	3,424
Corosal	817	628	1,445	3,245	1,549	4,794
Consejo	237	127	364	464	536	1,000
Mullins River ...	112	7	119	384	30	414
Stann Creek ...	447	99	546	1,708	498	2,206
All Pines	122	5	127	223	109	332
Monkey River ...	91	30	121	295	238	533
Punta Gorda ...	10	19	29	310	416	726
	6,926	2,422	9,348	15,305	7,992	23,297

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The Volunteer Force suffered a loss early in the year by the departure of Major Peebles, the commanding officer, from the Colony. The command was held during the rest of the year by Captain Gutteron. Interest in the force was well maintained, the total strength on the 31st December, 1905, being 254 of all ranks.

During the year the authorised strength of the Mounted Infantry was increased to 50. The establishment of this section has increased the efficiency of the force, and the keenness with which its members have performed their duties has stimulated a healthy spirit of emulation among the unmounted men.

The annual camp in March, 1906, was attended by 145 of all ranks, of whom 35 belonged to the mounted infantry.

Musketry practice is carried on under difficulties, but the range has been improved, and better shooting is now done than was formerly the case.

The total expenditure on the force during the year 1905 was $4,593.52. The expenses of camping are reduced to a minimum by free transport being given by local firms.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The most important event of the year was an outbreak of yellow fever in Belize, and in connection with it the visit of Professor Boyce, of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, who arrived in the Colony on the 17th September and left on the 24th October. His conclusions have been embodied in an interesting report, recently published.

The outbreak of yellow fever, not only in the Colony, but in neighbouring ports, and especially New Orleans, hampered our trade considerably for the time.

Governor Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott left the Colony on account of ill-health on the 22nd July. Mr. P. C. Cork, the Colonial Secretary, returned from leave and assumed the administration of the Government on the 7th August, Mr. H. E. W. Grant, the Acting Colonial Secretary, acting in the interval between Sir Bickham Sweet-Escott's departure and Mr. Cork's arrival. Mr. Cork, being promoted to the Administratorship of St. Lucia, was relieved by the present writer on the 18th October.

(B.) Public Works.

Progress was made in improving the navigation of the Belize River by destroying rocks at Little Falls, and by clearing the "Narrows," near Belize, of snags and overhanging trees.

In July Mr. Morton Cuthbert, the newly-appointed electrical engineer, arrived in the Colony, and put the Belize local telephone exchange in order, with the result that the applications of subscribers were more than could be dealt with on the system as originally designed. Extensions are now being carried out.

(C.) Future Prospects.

The Colony possesses a considerable area of undeveloped land, somewhat difficult of access. In the northern half of the Colony, which probably possesses less first-class land than in the south, it is possible, with a moderate expenditure, to improve the navigation of the rivers so as to make them available for small steamers or motor boats. In the southern half excellent lands can be made available by the construction of light tramways.

In agriculture, it seems possible in present conditions to grow bananas, cocoanuts, rubber, and cacao at a profit. The mahogany-cutting industry works under difficulty on account of the comparative scarcity of trees of sufficient size and easily accessible. Periods of heavy export, consequent on high prices, are likely to be followed by years of diminished production; but it appears that nature produces sufficient trees to prevent the supply from ever being exhausted.

WILFRED COLLET,

Colonial Secretary.

Belize,

8th November, 1906.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
487	Weihaiwei	1905.
488	Gold Coast	"
489	Seychelles	"
490	Falkland Islands	"
491	Gambia	"
492	Jamaica	1904–1905.
493	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1905.
494	Ceylon	"
495	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
496	Bahamas	1905–1906.
497	Barbados	"
498	Malta	1905.
499	British Central Africa Protectorate	1905–1906.
500	Colonial Survey Committee	"
501	Grenada	1905.
502	Straits Settlements	"
503	Gibraltar	"
504	Trinidad and Tobago...	1905–1906.
505	St. Lucia	1905.
506	Mauritius	"
507	Southern Nigeria (Lagos)	"
508	Somaliland	1905–1906.
509	Fiji	1905.
510	St. Vincent	1905–1906.
511	Sierra Leone	1905.
512	Southern Nigeria	"
513	Basutoland	1905–1906.
514	British Guiana...	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
28	Gold Coast and Sierra Leone ...	Rubber.
29	Ceylon	Geological Survey.
30	Pitcairn Island	Report by Mr. R. T. Simon.
31	Northern Nigeria	Cotton, &c.
32	Do. do.	Mineral Survey.
33	Southern Nigeria	Do.
34	Montserrat	Agricultural Industry
35	Antigua and St. Kitts-Nevis ...	Sugar.
36	West Indies	Work of Imperial Department of Agriculture.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.

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BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1907.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 552.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1906.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 515.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
December, 1907.

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No. 552.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1905, *see* No. 515.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Belize,
4th November, 1907.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the Colonial Secretary's Annual Report for the year 1906.

I have, &c.,

E. J. E. SWAYNE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable,
The Earl of Elgin, K.G.

1125 Wt 2428 12/07 D & S 5 30517

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1906.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1906. The other returns are for the calendar year 1906.

On 1st April, 1905, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $146,912.57.

(A.) REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1904–05 and 1905–06, under each head of revenue and service, respectively :—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1904–05.	Amount collected in the year 1905–06.
	$	$
1. Customs	166,958.85	161,789.12
2. Light Dues	8,600.84	8,464.62
3. Internal Taxation	57,731.82	58,311.01
4. Revenues of Government Property ...	8,151.48	10,058.13
4a. Revenues of Government Property (special).	25,000.00	50,000.00
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	22,611.65	21,768.92
6. Post Office and Telegraphs	11,796.98	13,355.42
7. Interest	5,403.48	6,385.38
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	149.54	143.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,291.97	1,013.15
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	307,696.61	331,289.29
10. Sale of Crown Lands	2,094.35	626.39
11. Casual Revenue	—	194.27
Total Revenue	309,790.96	332,109.95
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	27,757.21	25,133.29
Corosal District	5,389.07	3,105.10
Orange Walk District	1,459.51	1,191.20
Stann Creek District	2,199.48	2,343.20
Toledo District	1,751.72	1,923.65
Cayo District	1,858.50	767,76
Total Local Revenue ...	40,415.49	34,464.20
Grand Total	350,206.45	366,574.15

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1904–1905.	Expenditure, 1905–1906.
	$	$
1. Charges on Account of Public Debt ...	10,533.19	10,533.19
2. Pensions	11,457.56	11,395.09
3. Governor	10,365.00	13,684.51
4. Colonial Secretary's Department ...	7,075.43	9,647.60
5. Treasury and Custom House	17,078.42	17,238.80
5A. Treasury and Custom House (Special expenditure).	—	3,597.30
6. Audit Department	2,433.47	2,528.83
7. Post Office and Telegraphs	22,919.49	28,463.02
8. Judicial	13,748.52	13,861.84
9. District Commissioners	15,000.04	15,059.65
10. Police	40,448.69	37,675.54
11. Volunteer Force	2,431.26	4,769.56
12. Prisons	12,424.97	11,490.63
13. Medical Department	24,487.18	25,416.87
14. Central Board of Health and Quarantine.	107.68	9,527.84
15. Education	15,660.33	16,567.91
16. Surveyor-General's Department ...	7,964.88	9,547.71
17. Botanic Station	2,112.02	2,396.58
18. Miscellaneous	5,381.25	5,484.30
29. Lighthouses	4,212.44	4,335.85
20. Colonial Engineer's Department ...	3,191.31	4,361.40
21. Public Works Recurrent	17,923.88	19,013.50
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	246,957.01	276,397.52
22. Public Works Extraordinary	35,3[illegible]90	23,953.37
Total Expenditure ...	282,258.91	300,350.89
Local Expenditure :—		
Belize District	29,656.97	29,491.28
Corosal District	5,106.04	3,160.01
Orange Walk District	1,232.92	1,151.98
Stann Creek District	2,704.20	2,278.01
Toledo District	1,527.12	1,415.24
Cayo District	986.40	938.98
Total Local Expenditure ...	41,213.65	38,435.50
Grand Total	323,472.56	338,786.39

(B.) TAXATION.

No alteration was made in taxation.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1901-2 to 1905-6, inclusive, with notes on points of special interest.

—	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.
Year.	Amount.	Amount.
	$	$
1901–2	272,142	256,910
1902–3	259,600	252,242
1903–4	301,194	266,039
1904–5	309,790	282,258
1905–6	332,110	300,351

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1906, in respect of its assets and liabilities, as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1905, is shown in the following table :—

General Revenue.

—	1904–5.	1905–6.
	$	$
Assets	245,658.03	261,477.18
Liabilities	98,745.46	82,805.55
Excess of Assets	146,912.57	178,671.63

At the end of the Calendar year 1906, the surplus on general revenue account stood at $271,935.51, of which $67,248.35 was invested. This surplus includes $125,000 paid on account of the Chipley Contract for the sale of pine woods.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1906 :—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ $4.86).	97,200
Total	168,815

These debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest of the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will he required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1906 :—

	$
Loan of 1885 (Repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s*.	23,313.74
Loan of 1887 (Repayable 1918, £9,000)	21,815.55
Loan of 1891 (Repayable 1923, £20,000)	30,174.83
Total Sinking Funds	75,304.12

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively.

The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $125,000.

There is also a bronze cent piece.

Under Ordinance 32 of 1894, currency notes of the following denominations have been issued :—

One dollar.
Two dollars.
Five dollars.
Ten dollars.
Fifty dollars.
One hundred dollars.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1906, was $136,642, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in the Colony $109,398.48, $27,243.52 having been remitted for investment in England, in accordance with the provisions of the law.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1902 to 1906 :—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1902 ...	337,300	920	662,624	226,959	1,227,803
1903 ...	463,915	2,592	938,414	368,055	1,772,976
1904 ...	467,449	6,621	991,613	291,636	1,757,319
1905 ...	495,873	9,742	957,481	413,014	1,876,560
1906 ...	587,456	8,309	1,123,681	481,095	2,200,541

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1902 ...	417,262	—	723,059	221,889	1,362,210
1903 ...	339,293	—	1,116,597	397,291	1,853,181
1904 ...	418,459	7,735	981,343	456,334	1,863,871
1905 ...	470,750	17,400	955,595	391,505	1,835,250
1906 ...	576,241	29,800	941,373	471,592	2,019,006

The imports amounted in value to $2,200,541, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of $323,981, and as compared with the average of the preceding 10 years of $777,966.

Of the total imports the United Kingdom and British Colonies supplied $595,765 or 26·9 per cent., as against $1,123,681 or 51·1 per cent. by the United States, and $481,095 or 22· per cent. by other countries.

As compared with the previous year the value of imports from the United Kingdom and British Colonies increased in the sum of $90,150, as against an increase from the United States of $166,200, and $67,631 from other countries.

The following statement of the percentage of the imports supplied by the United Kingdom, British Colonies, United States and other countries during the year as compared with 1897, shows a decrease of 7·8 per cent. from the United Kingdom and British Colonies, of 2·5 per cent. from the United States, and an increase of 10·3 per cent. from other countries :—

	1897.		1906.	
	$	per cent.	$	per cent.
United Kingdom...	486,463	or 34·1 ...	587,465	or 26·7
British Colonies ...	8,127	or ·6 ...	8,309	or ·2
United States ...	761,768	or 53·6 ...	1,123,681	or 51·1
Other Countries ...	165,739	or 11·7 ...	481,095	or 22·0

The increase in imports from other countries is due to the development of that part of Yucatan to the north of the Colony, the produce of which, consisting of mahogany, logwood, chicle and rubber, is imported into and shipped from the port of Belize.

The imports grouped in classes as required by the Board of Trade, show the following increases and decreases as compared with 1905 :—

Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.

	$		$
1905 ...	781,104		
1906 ...	808,522	Increase ...	27,418

Class II. Raw Material (other)

	$		
1905 ...	232,779		
1906 ...	361,624	Increase ...	128,845

Class III. Manufactured Articles. (Textile)

	$		$
1905 ...	331,431		
1906 ...	374,749	Increase ...	43,318

(Metal)

	$		$
1905 ...	133,860		
1906 ...	128,893	Decrease ...	4,967

(Other)

	$		$
1905 ...	293,286		
1906 ...	416,059	Increase ...	122,773

Class IV. Coin, Bullion, and Specie.

	$		$
1905 ...	104,100		
1906 ...	110,694	Increase ...	6,594

The principal imports from the United Kingdom and the United States, and their value, are given below :—

	United Kingdom. $	United States. $
Aerated waters ...	5,417	2,985
Bacon and Hams ...	—	28,001
Beef and Pork	—	79,827
Beer, Cider, Porter, &c.	9,485	10,778
Blinds, Doors, Sashes, &c.	—	4,651
Books and Stationery ...	3,196	3,337
Boots and Shoes ...	3,322	83,924
Bread, Navy and Pilot	—	2,324
Butter	5,558	22,837
Candles	912	3,746
Cheese	4,021	11,714
Clothing	18,807	11,934
Confectionery	8,543	1,842
Cotton goods	144,385	166,922
Drugs and Chemicals ...	4,455	26,583
Earthenware and Glassware.	6,569	3,560
Fish, salted	—	4,993
Flour	—	88,812
Furniture	808	7,185
Hats	10,982	5,389
Hardware and Cutlery...	27,028	43,601
Hay and Oats	777	12,830
Indian corn	—	5,900
Iron roofing	10,987	—
Jewellery and Plate ...	1,740	5,613
Lamp and Lampware ...	782	4,578
Lard	—	16,807
Lumber	—	41,370
Machinery	5,752	43,543
Matches...	418	4,370

Principal Imports from United Kingdom and United States—cont.

	United Kingdom.	United States.
	$	$
Oils, mineral	—	15,527
Paints	11,304	3,459
Perfumery	4,112	5,859
Provisions, tinned ...	92,818	125,515
Rice	39,346	1,303
Rope and Twine ...	5,612	9,876
Saddlery and Harness ...	2,165	2,482
Silks	6,481	—
Soap	31,176	4,788
Spirits	12,186	2,935
Sugar	1,505	9,945
Tea	8,624	—
Tobacco...	465	13,212
Wines	13,581	1,113
Woollen goods	9,425	—

As shown above the United States supplied the greater portion of the food-stuffs imported, as well as a large portion of other articles which in former years were obtained mainly from the United Kingdom, such as clothing, cotton goods, drugs, and chemicals, &c.

The imports from other countries consisted chiefly of mahogany, cedar, logwood, chicle, rubber, live stock, cigars, cigarettes, and coffee from Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala, and cotton goods, earthenware, glassware, cutlery, spirits, and wines from Germany and France.

Attention is drawn to the large sums spent annually in the importation of certain articles which might be produced in the Colony. The value of these articles imported during the year was as under :—

	$
Corn	6,300
Coffee	11,231
Live stock	40,494
Rice	40,673
Tobacco (raw)	12,756

The Customs duty collected during the year amounted to $180,706.95, an increase of $28,498.84 as compared with 1905 and

$33,407.71 as compared with the average of the preceding 10 years.

The total value of the exports was $2,019,006, an increase, as compared with the previous year, of $183,756, and as compared with the average of the preceding 10 years of $524,319.

Of the total exports the United Kingdom and British Colonies took $606,041 or 30 per cent., the United States $941,373 or 46·62 per cent. and other countries $471,992 or 22·38 per cent.

The following statement shows the change which has occurred in the export trade during the 10 years 1897–1906 :—

	$	$
United States (Increase) ...	703,186	
Mexico „ ...	187,181	
Honduras „ ...	207,619	
Guatemala „ ...	8,847	
British Colonies „ ...	29,744	
Total increase ...		1,136,677
United Kingdom (Decrease) ...	193,626	
France „ ...	254,842	
Germany „ ...	15,483	
Holland „ ...	37,283	
Russia „ ...	19,713	
Other Countries „ ...	1,011	
Total decrease ...		521,958
Net increase ...		614,619

The increase shown in the value of the exports to the United States is mainly due to the large quantity of mahogany and cedar taken by that country during the last few years and to an increased output of chicle, cocoanuts, and fruit. The wood shipped to this market during the year under review amounted to 4,716,211 feet of mahogany valued at $220,047, and 359,427 feet of cedar valued at $18,042 as against 2,575 feet of mahogany valued at $130, and 4,185 feet of cedar valued at $125 shipped in 1897.

The increase shown in the exports to Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala is due to the rapidly growing transit trade with those countries. This trade has increased from $60,450 in 1897 to $482,620 in 1906, and, with the development of Yucatan and improved communication with the province of Peten, promises to become a valuable item of the trade of the Colony.

The decrease in the exports to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Holland, and Russia is attributable to the falling off in the output of logwood. The wood shipped in 1906 amounted to 9,335 tons valued at $174,466 as against 29,682 tons valued at $671,492 exported in 1897.

The exports grouped in the classes as required by the Board of Trade show an increase in the produce of the Colony as compared with 1905 of $43,116 under Class I, and $152,914 under Class II. The former is due to the increased production in bananas and cocoanuts, and the latter to the larger output of mahogany, cedar, and chicle.

The exports of British and Foreign produce and manufactures increased $48,613 under Classes I, II, and III, and decreased $60,887 under Class IV. "Bullion and Coin."

Of Colonial produce the exports for the year amounted to $1,167,349, or $196,030 in excess of the previous year, and $171,899 in excess of the average exports of the preceding 10 years.

The exports of bananas and cocoanuts have shown a steady increase from year to year; the exports for the year under review being the largest on record. This increase would appear to indicate that the inhabitants of the Colony, although hitherto debarred from making use of the best agricultural lands, owing to want of transport, are gradually turning their attention to agriculture, and that the opening up of the Stann Creek Valley by railway will be taken full advantage of.

The exports of other products compared favourably with those of other years, in most cases showing excesses.

The value of the produce and manufactures of other countries exported, exclusive of bullion and coin, amounted to $786,830, an increase of $48,613 as compared with 1905. As shown by the return, this trade has increased rapidly during the last four years, being valued in 1902 at $159,870 as against $706,830 for the year under review.

The following return shows the total quantity and value of produce shipped from the Colony during the five years 1902-1906.

Quantity and value of the principal items of produce exported.

—	1902.		1903.		1904.		1905.		1906.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany	6,043,821	326,658	9,358,776	492,554	9,811,680	574,548	9,957,826	549,099	11,037,480	584,598
Cedar	486,356	24,660	706,533	35,505	758,651	36,279	415,738	21,239	697,055	35,659
	Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.		Tons.	
Logwood	15,200	302,366	14,205	274,303	11,381	205,515	9,572	184,229	9,335	174,466
	Bchs.		Bchs.		Bchs		Bchs.		Bchs.	
Bananas	438,200	107,805	524,811	158,913	508,200	127,450	554,700	142,925	725,000	181,250
	Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.		Nos.	
Plantains	1,624,310	13,168	2,243,350	17,885	2,033,500	15,291	1,665,000	11,806	1,817,175	12,731
Cocoanuts	3,767,175	36,865	3,738,264	47,822	3,391,250	48,074	4,929,700	74,804	5,527,985	83,077
	Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.		Lbs.	
Rubber	30,338	14,163	22,176	13,002	28,042	18,262	22,926	15,921	22,108	18,362
Chicle	252,933	38,185	409,508	74,951	773,323	171,806	1,523,663	299,009	1,517,898	329,975
Sarsaparilla	2,797	688	3,597	766	3,784	941	3,173	592	3,066	328
Tortoise shell ...	3,297	14,[illegible]35	2,737	14,507	2,272	12,272	2,778	14,115	3,783	26,008

The exports as shown above were taken by the following countries :—

United Kingdom.

		$
Mahogany (6,321,269 feet) valued at	...	364,551
Cedar (337,628 feet) „	...	17,617
Logwood (8,437 tons) „	...	156,506
Tortoise Shell (3,783 lbs.) „	...	26,008
Chicle (2,607 lbs.) „	...	365
Sarsaparilla (3,066 lbs.) „	...	328
Total	...	$565,375

United States.

		$
Mahogany (4,716,211 feet) valued at	...	220,047
Cedar (359,427 feet) „	...	18,042
Logwood (352 tons) „	...	7,040
Bananas (725,000 bunches) „	...	181,250
Plantains (1,817,175 Nos.) „	...	12,731
Cocoanuts (5,514,985 Nos.) „	...	81,347
Rubber (22,108 lbs.) „	...	18,362
Chicle (1,515,291 lbs.) „	...	329,610
Total	...	$868,429

France.

Logwood (546 tons) valued at ...	...	10,920

Honduras.

Cocoanuts (95,000) valued at ...	...	$1,550

British Colonies.

Cocoanuts (18,000) valued at ...	...	$160

The export duty of 75 cents per 1,000 feet on mahogany and 25 cents per ton on logwood amounted to $10,613, as against $9,867 in 1905.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $4,219,547, or $507,737 in excess of 1905, and was the largest on record. This was not only due to the greater output of mahogany, cedar, and chicle, but to the expansion in the transit trade and the still more satisfactory increase in the production of cocoanuts and bananas, which was also the largest on record.

The rum returned by the distillers as manufactured during the year amounted to 43,975 proof gallons net from 10 stills, as against 40,168 proof gallons from 11 stills in 1905, 42,491 proof gallons from 13 stills in 1904, 39,176 proof gallons from 15 stills in 1903, and 41,006 proof gallons from 15 stills in 1902.

The excise duty collected during the year amounted to $48,196, as against $43,394 in 1905, $45,018 in 1904, $44,525 in 1903. The amount collected in 1902 amounted to $39,650.

(B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

If 1905 was a record year for fruit it was surpassed by 1906, as is shown in the following comparative return :—

	1905.	1906.
Bananas (bunches) exported	554,700	725,000
Plantains, exported ...	1,665,000	1,817,175
Cocoanuts „ ...	4,929,700	5,527,985

The cultivation of these products will continue to increase, especially when the Stann Creek Valley is opened up by a railway.

The planting of rubber has been extended.

Little has been done in the way of cacao cultivation, but that little has increased. The following comparative table shows a satisfactory progress :—

Year.	Produce.
1899	Nil.
1900	892 lbs.
1901	665 „
1902	1,078 „
1903	8,934 „
1904	14,742 „
1905	18,988 „
1906	42,800 „

The following plants were distributed during the year from the Botanic stations :—

Cacao...	700
Logwood	7,500
Rubber	200
Nutmeg	75
Mahogany	100
Various ornamental plants	827
Various fruit plants, &c.	101
Supplied to the Public Hospital and Cemeteries	152
Total distributed ...	9,655
Liberian coffee seed sent to District Commissioner, Cayo, for distribution	10 qts.
Liberian coffee seed sent to the District Commissioner, Toledo, for distribution	10 qts.
Total	20 qts.

The returns show 49 sugar mills in operation, seven being worked by steam. There were also 10 stills for the manufacture of rum. The output of sugar is put at about 500 tons, nearly all consumed locally, a high price being maintained by means of a protective duty on foreign sugar of 2 cents a pound. About 37 tons were exported to Mexico and 2½ tons to Honduras.

The sponge fishery yielded 6,307 lbs.; while the exports of tortoise shell amounted to 3,128 lbs.

(C.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Twelve grants of rural land were made with an acreage of 716¼ acres, the price for agricultural land being $1 per acre.

The area of rural land under lease was 21,387 acres in 562 holdings, producing a rental of $3,367.37.

The revenue from licences to cut timber amounted to $7,469.56, as against $3,411.74 in 1905, and $7,046.80 in 1906.

(D.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared, respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1902	523	18,472	263	189,643
1903	591	15,292	317	236,767
1904	487	13,782	289	239,117
1905	464	11,728	270	234,163
1906	712	12,410	276	218,837

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1902	508	19,662	265	188,643
1903	572	16,485	307	234,203
1904	501	14,406	268	236,252
1905	520	11,621	283	238,953
1906	705	13,191	281	211,487

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1902	322	7,051	52	774	18	7,211
1903	398	7,974	36	968	10	3,722
1904	321	8,414	8	702	2	801
1905	263	6,629	61	1,826	1	450
1906	359	7,649	35	1,629	—	—

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1902	330	6,678	30	603	21	8,560
1903	379	8,391	22	822	12	4,512
1904	320	8,640	10	719	2	865
1905	284	7,276	50	1,689	—	—
1906	354	7,951	35	1,677	1	450

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1902	66	92,876	102	55,259	95	41,508
1903	106	117,358	80	43,199	125	75,855
1904	134	160,751	35	4,467	116	70,427
1905	125	162,016	41	4.330	98	59,641
1906	124	158,146	62	1,669	76	49,936

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons
1902	69	94,124	100	52,689	95	41,825
1903	104	115,991	76	40,948	124	76,940
1904	130	161,465	21	3,521	107	65,088
1905	124	166,155	45	1,615	105	64,047
1906	119	150,388	73	2,057	76	50,106

III.—LEGISLATION.

Fourteen Ordinances were enacted during 1906. Of these the most important was Ordinance No. 1, "The Mosquito Destruction Ordinance."

Ordinance No. 2 provides for the regulation of Newtown Barracks and the adjacent parade ground now generally used for the purposes of public recreation.

Ordinance No. 13 somewhat alters the incidence of fees for Trade Licences in Belize, and provides for the settlement of rental values of business premises by the District Commissioner.

The other Ordinances were the usual appropriation Ordinances and Ordinances amending the Consolidated Laws and existing Ordinances.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in force in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as president, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools received aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants to schools in the outdistricts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1906 was $15,694.31, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	13,302.33
Grants on account of pupil teachers ...	1,360.23
Needlework grants	167.25
Bonuses on examination results for the year 1905	646.25
Grants for buildings, furniture, and apparatus	218.25
	15,694.31

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $28,804.56. Of this sum the Government contributed $17,675.81, detailed as follows :—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	15,694.31
Expenses of administration...	1,981.50

The cost per head on the total average attendance (2,876) was $10.01. The following statement shows the cost, as compared with the three preceding years :—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	$	$	$	$
Paid by Government ...	5.65	5.84	5.95	6.14
School Fees	1.01	.99	.89	.85
Voluntary Contributions ...	3.28	3.35	3.09	3.02
Totals...	9.94	10.18	9.93	10.01

The average attendances during 1904, 1905, and 1906 were 2,580, 2,742 and 2,876 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 39. There were 41 in 1905, and 39 in 1904.

The total number of pupils on the roll was 3,945, as compared with 3,823 in 1905 and 3,576 in 1904.

The average receipt of school fees per head, on the average attendance for the year, is less than that of 1903—when it reached the highest figures shown for several previous years—and for each of the two preceding years, 1904 and 1905.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table :—

Sources of Education Revenue.

Schools.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Voluntary Contributions.			Receipts of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
				$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England ...	427	432	506	639.10	577.87	613.71	3,228.28	2,733.55	3,200.85	1.49	1.34	1.20
Roman Catholic	1,140	1,240	1,329	895.33	822.51	808.33	2,621.25	2,558.15	2,702.81	.78	.66	.61
Wesleyan...	729	718	691	740.09	650.95	707.45	1,958.52	2,714.18	2,322.05	1.01	.90	1.02
Baptist	161	185	184	150.26	171.60	140.40	688.99	612.00	612.00	.93	.93	.76
Non-denominational ...	123	167	166	135.60	213.00	184.40	60.00	60·00	60.00	1.10	1.27	1.11
Totals	2,580	2,742	2,867	2,560.38	2,435.93	2,454.29	8,524.04	8,677·88	8,897.71	.99	.89	.85

The smallest proportion of fees is received in the Roman Catholic Schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

HOSPITALS, ASYLUM, AND POOR-HOUSE.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1906.

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1906.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1906.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	28	513	421	79	51	39·43
Corosal Hospital ...	7	135	115	17	10	8·11
Orange Walk Hospital	7	91	76	10	12	6
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	40	9	2	2	45	42·50
Poor-house ...	24	20	1	10	33	25·58

SAVINGS BANKS.

There are six Savings Banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors was 542. Deposits amounted to $[illegible],223.47, and withdrawals to $15,347.66. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1906 was $67,952.52.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $60,373.05.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

There are seven Friendly Societies in Belize, four of which have not furnished returns for the Blue Book. The remaining three had a total of 237 members, with invested funds to the amount of $2,894.19.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

The authorised strength is one superintendent, one assistant, and 98 non-commissioned officers and men. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison from 1902 to 1906:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1902	322	43·48
1903	367	49·31
1904	250	58·41
1905	299	54·32
1906	420	54·24

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prison they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ship fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 51 punishments. No corporal punishment has been inflicted on a prisoner since the year 1900. The health of the prisoners and warders was good, and there were no deaths.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1906 was 1,301, or 57 more than in 1905. The number of persons summarily convicted was 918, or 76 more than in 1905.

Informations were filed against 46 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 37 cases, and for the prisoner in two. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in two cases. One prisoner was insane and unable to plead.

There was one conviction for manslaughter and one for rape. Nineteen convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, and 12 for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated mean population for the year was 41,007, consisting of 20,942 males and 20,065 females.

The birth-rate was 32·9, and the mortality 29·9 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 630, out of a total of 1,403. The following table shows the rate per cent. of illegitimate births during the past nine years :—

	Per cent.
1898	37·5
1899	39·8
1900	42·0
1901	43·1
1902	44·9
1903	46·7
1904	44·5
1905	44·9
1906	39·2

385 marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·39 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last ten years :—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1897 ...	1,410	40·5	309	1,013	29·5
1898 ...	1,469	42·2	281	1,146	32·9
1899 ...	1,526	43·3	273	1,191	33·8
1900 ...	1,478	39·9	339	890	24·0
1901 ...	1,489	39·5	312	1,069	28·3
1902 ...	1,467	38·2	339	1,058	27·6
1903 ...	1,513	38·8	351	1,043	26·7
1904 ...	1,500	37·8	386	989	24·9
1905 ...	1,403	34·7	423	1,331	32·9
1906 ...	1,349	32·9	385	1,228	29·9

During 1906 the excess of male over female births was 27 and of male over female deaths, 106.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table, prepared by the Registrar-General, furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony :—

Mortality from some of the Principal Diseases in the Colony, 1897–1906.

Years.	Diseases.									
	Malarial Fevers.	Dysentery.	Small-pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.
1897	9·9	1·9	—	—	—	1·1	3·6	·9	1·2	1·4
1898	10·8	1·5	—	—	—	1·5	3·5	·5	2·6	1·3
1899	9·2	1·9	—	—	—	1·5	3·6	·4	4·7	2·5
1900	8·6	1·1	—	—	—	1·0	3·3	·7	1·7	1·6
1901	9·4	1·5	—	—	—	0·9	2·8	·9	1·7	1·9
1902	8·8	1·3	—	—	—	0·9	1·5	1·0	1·9	2·1
1903	8·6	1·0	—	—	—	1·3	2·7	·4	1·6	1·7
1904	8·1	0·9	—	—	—	1·2	2·1	·5	1·4	2·1
1905	9·3	1·3	—	0·173	—	1·3	1·9	·6	2·0	2·8
1906	9·6	0·9	—	—	—	1·6	1·9	·4	4·7	2·0

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1902–06, inclusive, according to their race classification :—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1902–1906.
Indian	114·23
Carib...	48·24
Negro	58·74
Other Races...	79·62

(C.) CLIMATE.

Summary of Meteorological Observations taken at Belize for the year 1905.

Months.	Barometer.		Thermometer.		Relative Humidity.		Number of days it rained.	Amount of rain.
January	30·160	29·070	85	60	98	80	16	6·85
February	30·155	29·960	89	63	98	85	9	3·55
March	30·175	29·955	87·5	68	97	81	5	2·00
April	30·175	29·960	88·5	68·5	97	82	1	0·80
May	30·293	29·946	90	70	97	85	6	6·42½
June	30·247	29·831	93	70	97	80	14	15·67
July	30·401	29·894	89	69	97	77	12	13·90
August	30·306	29·880	91	70	97	77	6	7·22½
September ...	30·263	29·848	92	70	97	82	7	5·00
October	30·197	29·207	92	71	97	83	9	9·00
November ...	30·162	29·814	93	65	97	83	12	14·80
December ...	30·214	29·857	86	67·6	97	85	5	14·10
Total ...	30·228	29·768	89·6	67·6	97·2	81·6	102	99·32

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1897-1906 in Belize was 89·74 inches; the maximum—114·21 inches—being in 1900, and the minimum—65·89 inches—in 1902.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall, in Inches.	No. of Days on which rain fell.
1897 ...	87·72	105
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116
1902 ...	65·89	107
1903 ...	70·90	118
1904 ...	87	119
1905 ...	106·42	109
1906 ...	99·32	102

VIII.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $13,044.25, as compared with $11,351.94 in 1904.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $14,583.89; and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,000, making a total expenditure of 26,583.79.

The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1902 to 1906 was as follows:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Ordinary letters ...	137,185	142,020	152,960	157,265	157,790
Registered letters ...	7,546	8,104	7,951	8,015	8,996
Post-cards	4,168	7,775	12,053	18,585	17,763
Newspapers, books, &c.	88,655	94,777	100,347	103,160	103,679
Postal parcels... ...	2,516	2,862	3,484	4,204	4,978

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Letters	62,965	66,749	68,886	67,365	68,564
Post-cards	1,100	2,444	1,375	1,547	1,398
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	8,655	11,803	9,994	9,789	13,189

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1902 to 1906 were as follows :—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

	£	s.	d.
1902	1,494	13	0
1903	1,095	13	0
1904	1,441	6	7
1905	1,476	12	2
1906	1,375	0	1

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

	$
1902...	3,730.75
1903...	3,846.63
1904	4,415.44
1905...	6,470.04
1906...	8,887.10

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

	£	s.	d.
1902	405	7	4
1903	247	18	2
1904	229	5	2
1905	232	15	1
1906	295	8	4

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by the U.S.A.

	$
1902...	1,670.80
1903...	333.55
1904...	404.61
1905...	809.65
1906...	2,724.03

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1904, 1905 and 1906 :—

——	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1904	6,926	2,422	9,348
1905	15,305	7,992	23,297
1906	14,887	10,195	25,082

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The volunteer year commences on the 1st April and terminates on the 31st March. Captain Gutteron resigned the command early in the year and was succeeded by Major Maxwell. The thanks of the Colony are due to Captain Gutteron for his long and zealous services to the force.

The strength of the force has been somewhat increased, amounting on the 31st March, 1907, to 208 Light Infantry and 53 Mounted Infantry. Probably at no time since the force was instituted has its efficiency been greater. The rifle range having been improved more attention was given to shooting than during the previous year.

The annual camp in March, 1907, was attended by 150 men, of whom 29 belonged to the Mounted Infantry. As usual, the principal firms in Belize provided free transport, and the cost of the camp to the Government amounted to only $439.84. The total cost of the force during the year was $4,645.89.

The Commandant, Major Maxwell, was during the year appointed Chief Justice of the Colony, but consented to continue in command.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

During the year 1906 the Colony was free from yellow fever. In the previous history of the Colony an outbreak of yellow fever, such as occurred in 1905, was always followed by a less severe outbreak in the following year. The Colony has been more fortunate in this respect than its neighbours, for in all the neighbouring Republics cases of yellow fever presented themselves. The immunity of the Colony is probably due to the practice of fumigating all the small vessels coming from infected places and so destroying infected mosquitoes.

An Ordinance to enforce the screening of vats and the taking of other measures for preventing the breeding of the *stegomyia asciata* came into force in January in Belize, and later on in other towns of the Colony. The work was slow as nearly all the vats had to be covered and prepared to take the wire gauze. The fitting of the gauze is an easy matter if the vat is properly constructed and covered. It was noticed that when the vats in any block were screened neighbouring houses were visited with flights of stegomyia, evidently looking for new breeding grounds. These migrations continued till the screening was completed. Some very bad low-lying lots in Belize have been filled in and breeding grounds of anopheles to some extent diminished.

The improvement in the navigation of the Belize river progressed far enough to enable power launches to proceed as far as the Cayo. A journey that used to take 10 to 30 days has been performed in 27 hours. The river is navigable to the Cayo for about eight months in every year, and some six or seven launches now run regularly during the season. Trade in the river has consequently increased very considerably. A system of allowing goods to pass through to Peten in bond will shortly be inaugurated.

A commencement was made in establishing a new experimental Botanical Station at Bolton's Bank, on the Belize River, about seven miles from the town. This new station is more suitable than the one in Belize, and with the improved navigation of the river is easily accessible.

Colonel E. J. E. Swayne arrived in the Colony on the 12th August and assumed the administration of the Government on the 13th.

The contract for a weekly mail service to New Orleans was renewed for a period of five years. There is an unsubsidized fortnightly service to Mobile. The Harrison Line steamers come from Liverpool every four or five weeks. Seven steamers of the Scrutton Line arrived from the West Indies and loaded for London.

A 20 mile line of railway has been sanctioned for the Stann Creek valley. The line will be carried to a pier, and trucks will be loaded and unloaded direct from and into ocean going steamers.

WILFRED COLLET,
Colonial Secretary.

1st November, 1907.

P.N.-11
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L.O.C.
Block 8a
X-11

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No	Colony, &c.	Year.
519	East Africa Protectorate	1905–1906
520	Seychelles	1906
521	Hong Kong	"
522	Falkland Islands	"
523	Ashanti	"
524	Jamaica	1905–1906
525	Uganda	"
526	St. Helena	1906
527	Ceylon	"
528	Bermuda	"
529	Gibraltar	"
530	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
531	Sierra Leone	"
532	Colonial Survey Committee	1906–1907
533	Weihaiwei	1906
534	Gold Coast	"
535	Malta	1906–1907
536	Gambia	1906
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
539	Leeward Islands	"
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas...	"
544	Barbados	"
545	Trinidad and Tobago	"
546	Grenada	"
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	"
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	"
551	Northern Nigeria	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony.	Subject.
37	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1904–5.
38	St. Helena	Agriculture.
39	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
40	Northern Nigeria	Taxation of Natives.
41	East Africa Protectorate ...	Report on Kenia Forests.
42	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
43	Caicos Islands	Fibre.
44	East Africa Protectorate ...	Survey Department.

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No. 572.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1907.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 552.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
August, 1908.

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No. 572.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1906, *see* No. 552.)

THE ACTING-GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Belize,
9th July, 1908.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report for the year 1907.

I have, &c.,

WILFRED COLLET,
Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1907.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1907. The other returns are for the calendar year 1907.

On 1st April, 1906, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $178,671.63.

(A.) Revenue and Expenditure.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1905-6 and 1906-7, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1905–06.	Amount collected in the year 1906–07.
	$	$
1. Customs	161,789.12	191,092.16
2. Light Dues	8,464.62	9,527.28
3. Internal Taxation	58,311.01	62,776.28
4. Revenue of Government Property ...	10,058.13	13,546.94
4A. Revenue of Government Property (special).	50,000.00	50,000.00
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	21,768.92	22,811.28
6. Post Office and Telegraphs	13,355.42	14,762.99
7. Interest	6,385.38	8,298.59
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements.	143.54	125.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,013.15	1,704.61
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	331,289.29	374,645.67
10. Sale of Crown Lands	626.39	1,592.12
11. Casual Revenue	194.27	122.93
12. Supply of Coin	—	15,500.00
Total Revenue	332,109.95	391,860.72
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	25,133.29	28,839.11
Corosal District	3,105.10	3,277.88
Orange Walk District	1,191.20	2,046.29
Stann Creek District	2,343.20	2,957.95
Toledo District	1,923.65	2,022.45
Cayo District	767.76	722.64
Total Local Revenue ...	34,464.20	39,866.32
Grand Total	366,574.15	431,726.04

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1905–1906.	Expenditure, 1906–1907.
	$	$
1. Charges on Account of Public Debt	10,533.19	10,526.95
2. Pensions	11,395.09	12,305.34
3. Governor	13,684.51	11,512.94
4. Colonial Secretary's Department	9,647.60	8,086.84
5. Treasury and Custom House	17,238.80	19,043.20
5a. Treasury and Custom House (Special expenditure).	3,597.30	950.00
6. Audit Department	2,328.83	2,309.57
7. Post Office and Telegraphs	28,463.02	29,502.89
8. Judicial	13,861.84	12,700.03
9. District Commissioners	15,059.65	14,711.94
10. Police	37,675.54	36,552.24
11. Volunteer Force	4,769.56	4,645.89
12. Prisons	11,490.63	11,595.38
13. Medical Department	25,416.87	26,950.22
14. Central Board of Health and Quarantine.	9,527.84	3,346.78
15. Education	16,567.91	17,423.80
16. Surveyor-General's Department	9,547.71	17,046.49
17. Botanic Station	2,396.58	2,650.57
18. Miscellaneous	5,484.30	7,952.36
19. Lighthouses	4,335.85	5,004.56
20. Colonial Engineer's Department	4,361.40	3,293.12
21. Public Works Recurrent	19,013.50	21,291.76
Total Ordinary Expenditure	276,397.52	279,402.87
22. Public Works Extraordinary	23,953.37	28,208.45
23. Loan Expenditure Stann Creek Railway.	—	5,554.55
24. Supply of Coin	—	8,272.79
Total Expenditure	300,350.89	321,438.66
Local Expenditure:—		
Belize District	29,491.28	29,076.49
Corosal District	3,160.01	3,030.89
Orange Walk District	1,151.98	1,267.18
Stann Creek District	2,278.01	1,931.60
Toledo District	1,415.24	2,039.47
Cayo District	938.98	1,112.59
Total Local Expenditure	38,435.50	38,458.22
Grand Total	338,786.39	359,896 88

(B.) TAXATION.

No alteration was made in taxation, but an Ordinance providing for additional revenue derivable from a small land tax was passed to take effect in 1908.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1902-3 to 1906-7:—

—	General Revenue.	General Expenditure
Year.	Amount.	Amount.
	$	$
1902-3	259,600	252,242
1903-4	301,194	266,039
1904-5	309,790	282,258
1905-6	332,110	300,351
1906-7	391,861	321,439

(C.) ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1907, in respect of its assets and liabilities, as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1906, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

	1905-6.	1906-7.
	$	$
Assets	261,477.18	341,319.07
Liabilities ...	82,805.55	92,225.38
Excess of Assets ...	178,912.57	249,093.69

At the end of the calendar year 1907, the surplus on general revenue account stood at $252,209.88, of which $69,355.04 was invested. This surplus includes $125,000 paid on account of the Chipley Contract for the sale of pine woods. On the other hand the surplus was $69,269.92 less than it would otherwise have been, by reason of expenditure on the Stann Creek Railway having been met from general revenue instead of from loan funds.

(D.) PUBLIC DEBT.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1907:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 @ $4.86)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 @ 4.86)	97,200
Total	168,815

These debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest of the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1907:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (Repayable 1916, \$27,875 = £5,735 12*s*)	23,732.98
Loan of 1887 (Repayable 1918, £9,000)	23,127.63
Loan of 1891 (Repayable 1923, £20,000)	32,559.43
Total Sinking Funds	79,420.04

(E.) CURRENCY.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for \$4.86 and \$2.43 respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to \$149,500. There is also a bronze cent piece.

Under Ordinance 32 of 1894, currency notes have been issued for sums of \$1, \$2, \$5, \$10, \$50, and \$100.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1907, was \$128,934, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in gold in the Colony \$91,970.48, and held investments in England, in accordance with the provisions of the law, amounting to \$36,963.52.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

(A.) IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1903 to 1907:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1903 ...	463,915	2,592	938,414	368,055	1,772,976
1904 ...	467,449	6,621	991,613	291,636	1,757,319
1905 ...	495,873	9,742	957,481	413,014	1,876,560
1906 ...	587,456	8,309	1,123,681	481,095	2,200,541
1907 ...	665,009	5,284	1,360,917	384,513	2,415,723

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$
1903 ...	339,293	—	1,116,597	397,291	1,853,181
1904 ...	418,459	7,735	981,343	456,334	1,863,871
1905 ...	470,750	17,400	955,595	391,505	1,835,250
1906 ...	576,241	29,800	941,373	471,592	2,019,006
1907 ...	454,102	27,017	1,146,808	583,109	2,211,036

Exclusive of coin and bullion, of which $86,149 was imported, the value of the imports amounted to $2,329,574, an increase of $239,727, as compared with 1906, and $946,923, as compared with the average value of the imports for the preceding ten years.

Of the total imports the United Kingdom and the British Colonies supplied $670,293 or 27·75 per cent., as against $1,360,917 or 56·34 per cent. by the United States, and $384,513 or 15·91 per cent. by other countries.

The value of the imports from the United Kingdom and British Colonies was $74,528 more than the previous year, as compared with an increase of $237,236 from the United States and a decrease of $96,582 from other countries.

It is satisfactory to note that the import trade of the Colony has steadily increased from year to year and that the imports for the year under review were $1,166,813 in excess of those of 1898, or almost double those of that year.

A comparison of the value of the imports in 1898 and 1907 and the relative positions of the several countries sending goods to the Colony in those years is shown below:—

1898.

	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom	420,127	33·64
British Colonies	2,723	·22
United States	706,472	56·56
Germany	18,965	1·52
France	5,482	·44
Other Countries	95,141	7·62

1907.

	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom	665,009	27·53
British Colonies	5,284	·22
United States	1,360,917	56·34
Germany	70,535	2·92
France	38,653	1·60
Other Countries	275,325	11·39

The falling off in the proportion of trade with the United Kingdom is due to the competition of the United States in such articles as cotton goods, drugs and chemicals, hardware, cutlery, and tinned provisions of all sorts, and also to the competition of Germany in cotton goods, earthen and glassware, hardware, perfumery, and toys.

The increase as shown under "other countries" is mainly due to the opening up of the Mexican territory bordering on the Rio Hondo, the produce of which, consisting of mahogany, logwood, chicle, and rubber, is imported into and shipped from the port of Belize.

The classes under which the increase in the value of the imports has occurred, as compared with 1906, are as follows:—

Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.

	$		$	
1906 ...	808,522			
1907 ...	907,060	Increase ...	98,538	

Class III. Manufactured Articles. (Textile)

	$		$	
1906 ...	374,749			
1907 ...	529,458	Increase ...	154,709	

(Metal)

	$		$	
1906 ...	128,893			
1907 ...	205,014	Increase ...	76,121	

(Other)

	$		$	$
1906 ...	416,059			
1907 ...	493,121	Increase ...	77,062	
	Total Increase	...	———	406,430

Less decreases under—

Class II Raw Material.

	$		$	
1906 ...	361,624			
1907 ...	194,921	Decrease ...	166,703	

Class IV. Coin, Bullion, and Specie.

	$		$	
1906 ...	110,694			
1907 ...	86,149	Decrease ...	24,545	
	Total Decrease	...	———	191,248
	Net Increase	...		215,182

It is noticeable that the main items of imports are foodstuffs, the Colony depending with but few exceptions on the United States for its food supply. In this connection it may be observed that no effort is being made to produce in the Colony such articles as rice, corn, vegetables, and live stock on a sufficiently large scale to supply the local demand. The value of the imports of these articles during the year amounted to $128,829.

The imports from the United Kingdom, with the exception of cotton goods, show but little increase during the last ten years. A comparison of the value of some of the main articles in 1898 and 1907 shows that while the United States and Germany have increased their trade with the Colony very considerably in these articles, the trade with the United Kingdom has remained about the same:—

	1898. $	1907. $
Aerated Waters:		
United Kingdom	1,430	1,907
United States		6,022
Germany		1,179
France		1,694
Boots and Shoes:		
United Kingdom	5,865	5,006
United States	38,843	100,314
Clothing:		
United Kingdom	26,952	29,533
United States	8,467	18,849
Cotton Goods:		
United Kingdom	90,078	175,811
United States	66,613	186,168
Germany	1,799	17,748
France		11,857
Drugs and Chemicals:		
United Kingdom	3,953	3,384
United States	9,727	27,572
Hardware and Cutlery:		
United Kingdom	17,577	30,358
United States	18,061	54,771
Germany	599	3,122
Provisions (tinned):		
United Kingdom	74,557	79,079
United States	62,614	132,269
Rope and Twine:		
United Kingdom	3,117	6,792
United States	4,058	17,882

Omitting the export duty on mahogany and logwood the customs duties collected during the year amounted to $206,888.92, an increase of $26,181.97, as compared with 1906, and $72,295.81, as compared with the average receipts of the preceding ten years.

Exports.

The value of the exports for the year amounted to $2,211,036, or $192,030 in excess of the exports for 1906, and $692,309 in excess of the average of the past 10 years.

The exports were distributed under the following heads:—

	$
British Honduras produce ...	1,150,215
Imports re-exported	917,477
Bullion and Coin	143,344
Total	$2,211,036

Of the total exports the United Kingdom and British Colonies took $481,119 or 21·76 per cent., the United States $1,146,808 or 51·87 per cent., Honduras $334,991 or 15·15 per cent., Mexico $221,130 or 10 per cent., and other countries $26,988 or 1·22 per cent.

A falling off in the value of the exports to the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Holland, and Russia is attributable to the decrease in the output of logwood owing to the unremunerative price now obtained for this article; the wood shipped in 1907 amounting to 6,663 tons, valued at $128,252, as compared with 23,579 tons, valued at $499,223 exported in 1896.

During the past few years there has been a large increase in the quantity of mahogany and cedar taken by the United States, the exports growing from 48,765 feet, valued at $2,610 in 1898, to 5,069,956 feet, valued at $261,329 in 1907. In addition this country takes all of the fruit, cocoanuts, and chicle exported from the Colony.

The exports to Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala are mainly imports re-exported. The transit trade with these countries is increasing steadily from year to year and should continue to do so with the development of the Mexican territory bordering on the Rio Hondo, and improved communication by the Belize river with the province of Peten. The value of this trade amounted to $578,693 in 1907, as against $61,807 in 1898.

The exports grouped in the classes as required by the Board of Trade show a decrease in the produce of the Colony, as compared with 1906, of $14,348 under Class I, "Live Animals, Food, &c.," and $3,855 under Class II. "Raw Material," and an increase of $1,069 under Class III. "Manufactured Material." The decreases were due to a falling off in the output of fruit and mahogany.

The exports of British and foreign produce and manufactures increased $88,251, $82,087, and $78,517 under Classes I., III., and IV., and decreased $39,691 under Class II.

The increases and decreases under the several classes are shown as under:—

Class.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
Class I.—Live animals, food, &c.—	$	$	$
1906	281,565	161,652	443,217
1907	267,217	249,903	517,120
Decrease	14,348	—	—
Increase	—	88,251	—
Net increase	—	—	73,903
Class II.—Raw material—			
1906	885,784	397,728	1,283,512
1907	881,929	358,037	1,239,966
Decrease...	3,855	39,691	43,546
Class III.—Manufactured material—			
1906	—	227,450	227,450
1907	1,069	309,537	310,606
Increase...	1,069	82,087	83,156
Class IV.—Bullion and Coin—			
1906	—	64,827	64,827
1907	—	143,344	143,344
Increase	—	78,517	78,517

As compared with 1906 the following increases and decreases appear in the main items of produce exported:—

——	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Ft.	Ft.		Ft.
Mahogany ...	11,037,480	9,569,566	—	1,467,914
Cedar	697,055	406,334	—	290,721
	Tons.	Tons.		Tons.
Logwood	9,335	6,663	—	2,672
	Bchs.	Bchs		Bchs.
Bananas	725,000	652,930	—	72,070
	Nos.	Nos.		Nos.
Plantains	1,817,175	849,550	—	967,625
Cocoanuts... ...	5,527,985	4,550,175	—	977,810
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.
Rubber	22,108	24,968	2,680	—
Chicle	1,517,898	1,689,118	171,220	—
Sarsaparilla ...	3,066	2,246	—	820
Tortoise-shell ...	3,783	2,987	—	796

The imports for 1907 as shown above were taken by the following countries:—

United Kingdom.		$
Mahogany (4,634,159 feet) valued at	...	282,403
Cedar (271,885 feet) ,,	...	15,075
Logwood (6,256 tons) ,,	...	119,298
Tortoise-shell (2,987 lbs.) ,,	...	20,771
Chicle (9,236 lbs.) ,,	...	2,917
Total	...	$440,464

United States.		$
Mahogany (4,935,407 feet) valued at	...	254,308
Cedar (134,449 feet) ,,	...	7,021
Logwood (407 tons) ,,	...	8,954
Bananas (652,930 bunches) ,,	...	159,549
Plantains (849,550 Nos.) ,,	...	6,012
Cocoanuts (4,550,175 Nos.) ,,	...	80,171
Rubber (24,968 lbs.) ,,	...	18,957
Chicle (1,679,882 lbs.) ,,	...	473,712
Sarsaparilla (2,246 lbs.) ,,	...	671
Total	..	$1,009,335

Of the total exports the following table gives those produced in the Colony itself as compared with 1906:—

—	1906.	1907.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bananas	Bchs. 725,000	Bchs. 652,930	—	Bchs. 72,070
Cedar	Ft. 448,651	Ft. 331,636	—	Ft. 117,015
Chicle	Lbs. 941,634	Lbs. 1,074,042	Lbs. 132,408	—
Cocoa	42,800	46,435	3,635	—
Cocoanuts ...	Nos. 5,527,985	Nos. 4,550,175	—	Nos. 977,810
Hides and skins ...	Lbs. 21,262	Lbs. 12,034	—	Lbs. 9,238
Logwood	Tons 8,773	Tons 6,167	—	Tons 2,606
Mahogany ...	Ft. 7,788,249	Ft. 6,871,920	—	Ft. 916,329
Plantains	Nos. 1,817,175	Nos. 849,550	—	Nos. 967,625
Rosewood... ...	Tons 9	Tons 306	Tons 297	—
Rubber	Lbs. 20,244	Lbs. 24,112	Lbs. 3,868	—
Rum	Gals. 3,639	Gals. 5,516	Gals. 1,877	—
Sarsaparilla ...	Lbs. 3,066	Lbs. 886	Lbs. —	Lbs. 2,180
Sugar	88,441	93,360	4,919	—
Tortoise-shell ...	3,128	2,987	—	141

The decrease in the output of mahogany and cedar was due to the prolonged drought experienced during the year, owing to which some of the woodcutters were unable to float their wood down to the ports of shipment. To the drought was also due the shortage in the output of fruit and cocoanuts.

The export duty of 75 cents per 1,000 feet on mahogany and 25 cents per ton on logwood brought in $8,857, as against $10,613 in 1906.

The total trade of the Colony amounted in all to $4,626,759, being the largest on record, and $407,212 in excess of 1906, an increase of $215,182 in imports and $192,030 in exports.

Excise.

During the year 11 stills were licensed, the net output of which, as declared to by the distillers, amounted to 57,826 proof gallons.

A very satisfactory increase of the quantity of rum returned and the duty collected is being shown from year to year, due mainly to the replacement of the old and worn-out stills with new and improved ones, and to better and more constant supervision by the Excise Officers.

The output for the years 1906 and 1907 was as under:—

Year.	No. of Stills.	Rum returned.	Duty collected.
		Gallons.	
1906	10	43,975	48,196
1907	11	57,826	51,707

(B.) AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.

There was a falling off in the export of bananas, plantains, and cocoanuts. This was due to a deficiency of rain, which was most severely felt in the Corosal District.

The experimental plantations of rubber also suffered from the same cause.

The production of cacao slightly increased, as will be seen from the following comparative table:—

Year.	Produce.
	lbs.
1903	8,934
1904	14,742
1905	18,988
1906	42,800
1907	46,435

The article produced was very satisfactory and fetched the highest market price in England.

Forty-eight sugar mills were in operation, of which ten were worked by steam, two by oil engines, and the rest by cattle.

The amount produced was (with the exception of some 45 tons exported to Mexico, Guatemala, and Honduras) consumed in the Colony.

Two saw-mills started operations; one at Mullins River in the Stann Creek District, and one at Duck Run, on the Belize River, in the Cayo District.

The sponge fishery yielded 5,125 lbs., and the exports of tortoise-shell amounted to 2,987 lbs.

(C.) LAND GRANTS AND VALUE OF LAND.

Eight grants of rural land were made with an acreage of 334¼ acres. Prices varied from $1 to $2.50 according to the locality of the land.

The area of rural land under lease was 23,020 acres in holdings, producing a rental of $3,176.90.

The revenue from licences to cut timber amounted to $10,632.50, as against $7,469.56 in 1906, and $3,411.74 in 1905.

Licences to bleed sapodilla (chicle) realised $775.06, and rubber $281.60.

(D.) SHIPPING.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared, respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1903	591	15,292	317	236,767
1904	487	13,782	289	239,117
1905	464	11,728	270	234,163
1906	712	12,410	276	218,837
1907	720	14,901	305	242,568

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1903	572	16,485	307	234,203
1904	501	14,406	268	236,252
1905	520	11,621	283	238,953
1906	705	13,191	281	211,487
1907	715	14,831	306	245,572

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1903	398	7,974	36	968	10	3,722
1904	321	8,414	8	702	2	801
1905	263	6,629	61	1,826	1	450
1906	359	7,649	35	1,629	—	—
1907	567	10,850	27	1,838	—	—

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1903	379	8,391	22	822	12	4,512
1904	320	8,640	10	719	2	865
1905	284	7,276	50	1,689	—	—
1906	354	7,951	35	1,677	1	450
1907	551	10,443	30	2,047	—	—

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1903	106	117,358	80	43,199	125	75,855
1904	134	160,751	35	4,467	116	70,427
1905	125	162,016	41	4,330	98	59,641
1906	124	158,146	62	1,669	76	49,936
1907	89	110,250	61	3,106	114	92,353

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons
1903	104	115,991	76	40,948	124	76,940
1904	130	161,465	21	3,521	107	65,088
1905	124	166,155	45	1,615	105	64,047
1906	119	150,388	73	2,057	76	50,106
1907	92	117,424	61	1,558	114	92,353

It will be seen that Norwegian steamships are replacing British steamers in the fruit trade with the United States. All new vessels entering into this trade in Central America seem to be Norwegian built. The Norwegian sailor seems to re-engage more steadily than the British or American, and this gives an advantage to Norwegian owners.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were enacted during 1907, of which the following were the most important:—

Ordinance No. 2 amends the law with regard to the distillation of spirits and provides for the introduction of the "locked still" system.

Ordinance No. 6 consolidates and amends previous Quarantine Ordinances. Its principal feature is the introduction in certain cases of a system of medical supervision of incoming passengers instead of detention in quarantine. Any passenger showing signs of illness during the period of supervision is at once isolated. The system is as safe as that of detention, and being less irksome passengers have not the same temptation to evade it.

Ordinance No. 16 provides for the inland carriage of goods in bond. This, it is hoped, will facilitate the import of goods through Belize into the Peten district of Guatemala.

Ordinance No. 20 provides for the regulation of buildings to be erected in Belize, so that due regard shall be given to sanitation and security against fire.

Ordinance No. 23 makes the Bankruptcy Law in the Colony coincide as far as possible with the law in England.

Ordinance No. 27 places the land tax on a new footing and removes several anomalies. It also provides for an increase of revenue from this source although in some instances the tax is reduced. A tax of three-quarters of a cent is now leviable on all rural lands, and an additional tax of 1¼ cents on certain cultivated lands, and the Governor, with the consent of the Legislative Council, has power to levy a special tax not exceeding 8 cents per acre on land served by a railway. The system is probably the best that can be adopted in the absence of a thorough survey of the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as president, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1907 was $15,992.21, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	14,424.31
Grants on account of pupil teachers ...	1,387.15
Needlework grants	180.75
	$15,992.21

Although the Government Grant to the Board of Education was somewhat greater than that of the previous year it was impossible to give any bonuses on examination results for the year 1906, or grants for buildings, furniture, and apparatus. The average daily attendances so far exceeded those of previous years that the attendance grants earned exceeded the amount available. An increased grant has been provided for 1908.

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $30,260.67. Of this sum the Government contributed $17,944.60, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	15,992.21
Expenses of administration	1,952.39

The cost per head on the total average attendance (3,043) was $9.94. The following statement shows the cost, as compared with the two preceding years:—

	1905	1906	1907
	$	$	$
Paid by Government	5.95	6.14	5.89
School Fees	.89	.85	.93
Voluntary Contributions ...	3.09	3.02	3.12
Totals	9.93	10.01	9.94

The average attendances during 1905, 1906, and 1907 were 2,742, 2,876, and 3,043 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 40. There were 39 in 1906, and 41 in 1905.

The total number of pupils on the roll was 4,277, as compared with 3,945 in 1906, and 3,823 in 1905.

There were also in operation eight unaided primary schools with 238 pupils on the roll and 213 in average daily attendance.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table:—

Sources of Education Revenue.

Schools.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Voluntary Contributions.			Receipts of School Fees per Unit of Average Attendance.		
	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1905.	1906.	1907.
				$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England ...	432	506	535	577.87	613.71	745.92	2,733.55	3,200.85	2,984.68	1.34	1.20	1.39
Roman Catholic	1,240	1,329	1,421	822.51	808.33	990.55	2,558.15	2,702.81	3,221.82	.66	.61	.70
Wesleyan	718	691	734	650.95	707.45	735.62	2,714.18	2,322.05	2,530.71	.90	1.02	1.00
Baptist	185	184	195	171.60	140.40	181.47	612.00	612.00	693.00	.93	.76	.72
Non-denominational ...	167	166	158	213.00	184.40	172.30	60·00	60.00	60.00	1.27	1.11	1.09
Totals	2,742	2,867	3,043	2,435.93	2,454.29	2,825.86	8,677·88	8,897.71	9,490.21	.89	.85	.93

The smallest proportion of fees is received in the Roman Catholic Schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

A bonus of $200 was awarded to the Master of a Secondary School, five of whose pupils were successful at the Cambridge Local Preliminary Examination held in November, 1906. There were no successful candidates at the 1907 examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor-house.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1907:—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1907.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1907.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	41	581	495	93	34	43·30
Corosal Hospital ...	9	93	83	13	6	4·26
Orange Walk Hospital	5	87	75	14	4	5·20
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	45	15	3	1	56	50·71
Poor-house ...	33	15	5	13	30	28·77

Savings Banks.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors was 588. Deposits amounted to $23,592.42 and withdrawals to $20,996.04. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1907 was $70,548.90.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $67,663.75.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

(A.) POLICE.

The authorised strength was one superintendent, one assistant, and 98 non-commissioned officers and men. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine. Owing to the development of the Colony it will be necessary to somewhat increase the establishment.

(B.) PRISONS.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison from 1903-1907:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for Penal Imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1903	367	49·31
1904	250	58·41
1905	299	54·32
1906	420	54·24
1907	304	60.35

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prison they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ship fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 51 punishments. No corporal punishment has been inflicted on a prisoner since the year 1900. The health of the prisoners and warders was good, and there were no deaths.

(C.) CRIMINAL STATISTICS.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1907 was 1,538, or 237 more than in 1906. The number of persons summarily convicted was 943, or 25 more than in 1906.

Informations were filed against 45 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 31 cases, and for the prisoner in 9. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in 5 cases.

There was one conviction for murder, two for manslaughter, and one for rape. Thirteen convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, and 9 for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

(A.) POPULATION.

The estimated mean population for the year was 42,406, consisting of 21,606 males and 20,800 females.

(B.) PUBLIC HEALTH.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General, furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Year.	Diseases.									
	Malarial Fevers.	Dysentery.	Small pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.
1898	10·8	1·5	—	—	—	1·5	3·5	·5	2·6	1·3
1899	9·2	1·9	—	—	—	1·5	3·6	·4	4·7	2·5
1900	8·6	1·1	—	—	..	1·0	3·3	·7	1·7	1·6
1901	9·4	1·5	—	—	—	0·9	2·8	·9	1·7	1·9
1902	8·8	1·3	—	—	—	0·9	1·5	1·0	1·9	2·1
1903	8·6	1·0	—	—	—	1·3	2·7	·4	1·6	1·7
1904	8·1	0·9	—	—	—	1·2	2·1	·5	1·4	2·1
1905	9·3	1·3	—	0·173	—	1·3	1·9	·6	2·0	2·8
1906	9·6	0·9	—	—	—	1·6	1·9	·4	4·7	2·0
1907	7·0	0·7	—	—	—	1·5	2·6	2·7	1·8	3·1

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1902-6, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1907:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1902-06	Deaths for every 100 births, 1907.
Indian	114·2	78·5
Carib	48·2	63·6
Negro	58·7	50·7
Other races...	79·6	57·9

The birth-rate was 36·62, and the mortality 22·19 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 639, out of a total of 1,553.

456 marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 10·75 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1,000.
1903 ...	1,513	38·8	351	1,043	26·7
1904 ...	1,500	37·8	386	989	24·9
1905 ...	1,403	34·7	423	1,331	32·9
1906 ...	1,349	32·9	385	1,228	29·9
1907 ...	1,553	36·6	456	941	22·1

During 1907 the excess of male over female births was 83, and of male over female deaths, 79.

(C.) CLIMATE.

Summary of Meteorological Observations taken at Belize for the year 1907.

Month.	Barometer, corrected.		Relative Humidity.		Shade Temperature.		Rain.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	No. of days.	Inch.
January	30·172	29·952	88	62	97	82	9	16·55
February	30·222	29·940	88	68	97	76	7	12·50
March ...	30·210	29·960	87	69	97	87	Nil	Nil
April ...	30·201	29·949	94	66	94	74	Nil	Nil
May ...	30·251	29·880	90	68	97	85	1	·20
June ...	30·247	29·848	92	70	97	80	6	2·77
July ...	30·206	29·842	89	69	97	82	8	9·70
August...	30·307	29·880	92	70	97	82	6	7·00
September	30·263	29·850	92	71	97	83	9	5·00
October...	30·215	29·856	97	76	90	65	14	13·20
November	30·197	29·899	100	82	90	73	13	11·25
December	30·206	29·756	99	83	90	65	7	13·00
	30·224	29·884	92·3	71·3	95	77·4	80	91·17

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1898-1907 in Belize was 90·93 inches; the maximum—114·21 inches—being in 1900, and the minimum—65·89 inches—in 1902. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall, in Inches.	No. of Days on which rain fell.
1898 ...	102·04	155
1899 ...	80·47	152
1900 ...	114·12	160
1901 ...	83·6	116
1902 ...	65·39	107
1903 ...	70·90	118
1904 ...	87·	119
1905 ...	106·42	109
1906 ...	99·32	102
1907 ...	91·17	80

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

(A.) POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $15,405.34, as compared with $11,449.44 in 1906.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $10,339.20; and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,000, making a total expenditure of $22,339.20.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1903-1907 was as follows:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Ordinary letters ...	142,020	152,960	157,265	157,790	179,084
Registered letters ...	8,104	7,951	8,015	8,996	9,778
Post-cards	7,775	12,053	18,585	17,763	24,638
Newspapers, books, &c.	94,777	100,347	103,160	103,679	112,180
Postal parcels... ...	2,862	3,484	4,204	4,978	5,234

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Letters ...	66,749	68,886	64,798	66,001	82,997
Registered articles			2,578	2,563	3,793
Post-cards	2,444	1,375	1,547	1,398	1,485
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	11,803	9,994	9,789	13,189	11,285

The transactions in connection with the money-order system from 1903 to 1907 were as follows:—

Money-Orders issued on the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

	£	s.	d.
1903	1,095	13	0
1904	1,441	6	7
1905	1,476	12	2
1906	1,375	0	1
1907	1,627	10	5

Money-Orders issued on the United States of America.

	$
1903	3,846.63
1904	4,415.44
1905	6,470.04
1906	8,887.10
1907	25,113.88

Money-Orders drawn on the Colony by the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

	£	s.	d.
1903	247	18	2
1904	229	5	2
1905	232	15	1
1906	295	8	4
1907	431	17	5

Money-Orders drawn on the Colony by the U.S.A.

	$
1903	333.55
1904	404.61
1905	809.65
1906	1,435.72
1907	2,098.89

(B.) TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1904, 1905, 1906, and 1907:—

—	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1904	6,926	2,422	9,348
1905	15,305	7,992	23,297
1906	14,887	10,195	25,082
1907	19,023	12,089	31,112

The working expenses of the system amounted to $9,398.93, and the receipts to $5,465.22.

The route of the northern line between Orange Walk and Corosal has been changed, and the line now follows the high road and brings the important village of San Estevan into communication. The service on the northern line is now fairly regular.

The southern section is not so satisfactory, but is being improved.

There is no regular through communication with places beyond the Colony; but a private firm has made arrangements for receiving telegrams at Consejo in this Colony, sending them by boat to Payo Obispo and then transmitting them by the Mexican line. This line has been subject to occasional interruptions, but usually telegrams sent to or from Belize reach their destination within 24 hours. Negotiations are in progress with the Mexican Government for the establishment of a through service.

IX.—MILITARY FORCES AND EXPENDITURE.

The amount expended on the volunteer force in 1907-8 was $6,933. The establishment consists of 200 Light Infantry and 50 Mounted Infantry. This has been the average strength of the force, all retirements having been quickly met by new enlistments.

In June the force offered its services to assist the police in dealing with some Indians in the Cayo District who had fired on the local police. The services of 16 mounted men were accepted as special constables. Absence of trustworthy guides prevented them from catching the Indians against whom the expedition was directed. These succeeded in crossing over the frontier into Guatemala, but order was restored and has not since been disturbed.

Within a few days of the departure of this expedition the Acting District Commissioner at Stann Creek reported that a military force was necessary to deal with a lot of labourers from Jamaica, imported for work on the railway, who not only refused to work for the agreed wages but by intimidation prevented others from working. The Governor asked the Senior Officer to provide 50 men. Within four hours 150 men were ready for embarcation. Of these 100 were promptly embarked. The force returned in three days with men who had been sentenced by the Court, and the following day some 400 persons were working peacefully on the railway. A fresh batch of labourers from Jamaica arrived in Belize at this time and gave some trouble, and the volunteers were called out to aid the police.

The force displayed by the Government was too great for resistance to be possible, and none was offered.

In November Major Maxwell, on account of ill-health, temporarily retired from the command, which was conferred on Captain Slack, who was promoted to the rank of Major.

In January, 1908, the Colony was visited by H.M.S. "Brilliant," and two rifle matches took place between teams from the ship and from the Volunteers. In one match the rifles were supplied by the Volunteer Force, and in the other by the ship. In each match the team supplying the rifles was victorious.

The annual camp in March, 1908, lasted one day more than usual, and was attended by 9 officers and 139 non-commissioned officers and men with 30 horses. There were also 19 camp followers and two transport mules. As usual the mercantile firms in Belize showed public spirit in providing free transport.

X.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony was fortunate in being free from quarantinable diseases. Vigilance was necessary owing to the existence of yellow fever in a neighbouring republic. Thanks to our new system of medical supervision in lieu of detention quarantine practically permits commerce to be undisturbed. Doctors appointed by the Government at the expense of the fruit steamers accompany these vessels south, and see that the labourers taken on at Belize are not employed where there would be risk of infection. They, therefore, receive pratique on their return to the Colony instead of having to remain in practically constant quarantine, as had to be the case in 1905 and 1906.

In July news was received of the existence of small-pox at the Mexican town of Payo Obispo, with which this Colony has daily communication. Fortunately the Commandante made known the existence of the disease as soon as it was discovered, and accepted the assistance offered him by the Colonial Surgeon. A system of vaccination by districts on both sides of the Hondo River, and as far as Bacalar Chico on the Mexican coast, was arranged, in which the Colonial Surgeon, Assistant Colonial Surgeon Kellett, and Hospital Attendant Clutterbuck took part, as did also Dr. Kipps, medical attendant at the Camp of the Mengel Bros. Co. on the Mexican side of the Hondo. There appear to have been three cases of the disease in Payo Obispo, but the measures taken were successful in preventing its spread. The action of the Mexican Commandante probably saved both his district and the Colony from a troublesome outbreak.

While exempt from quarantinable disease, the Colony suffered from an outbreak of dengue fever which, according to the estimate of the Colonial Surgeon, attacked 45 per cent. of the population. Two deaths were reported from this cause; but they were complicated with recent malaria. Apparently no case of simple dengue ended fatally. A noted American physician has said that in its early stages this fever is more like yellow fever than a mild case of yellow fever is, and three cases were isolated as possible yellow fever. All doubts were removed, however, in the later stages. The observations made by medical men during the course of the epidemic are consistent with the conclusions of the United States Commission which investigated this fever in the Philippine Islands. The *Culex Fatigans* was found in every infected house. The *Stegomyia Fasciata* could not be found in Belize. Persons who had had yellow fever in Belize and elsewhere were attacked by dengue. No person was attacked who was known to have had the fever before. In one house a child had it, while the parents who had had it 21 years before escaped. The coloured population suffered as much as the white.

The general health of the Colony was good. The death-rate was the lowest on record, viz.:—22·19 per 1,000 with a birth-rate of 36·64. The death-rate from malaria in the Belize District was only 1·52 per 1,000, and this includes cases originating in other districts. The town of Belize was remarkably free from this fever. Many causes no doubt have contributed to this state of things. The clearing to the west of the town was gone over carefully and advantage was taken of the dry season to burn off. Much remains to be done for the sanitation of Belize, but the town is more sanitary than at first sight one would suppose, as the water in most of the low-lying lots is crowded with small fish that keep down mosquitoes.

The Colony, and especially the town of Belize, was visited by an unusually long spell of dry weather lasting over three months. The water supply of the town ran short and drinking-water had to be fetched from Manatee, a distance of 20 miles. The United Fruit Company and Messrs. Orr, Laubenheimer and Co. also kindly sent water from New Orleans and Mobile and presented it to the town. The drought retarded the progress of some new rubber plantations. Apart from this it did little or no injury to the Colony. Many poor people suffered from the scarcity of drinking-water and the necessity of having to send for other water to the wells, which were crowded with people waiting their turn. The seriousness of the drought was due not so much to its length as to its being so unusual and unexpected that no adequate preparations had been made to meet it.

A commencement was made in the construction of the Stann Creek Railway, which it has been decided shall have a length of 25 miles with a three feet gauge. Trains will run on to a pier which will accommodate vessels drawing over 20 feet of water.

A new road from Belize was commenced, or rather an old road which had been begun and abandoned a generation ago was continued.

The difficulty of carrying the road through the swamp was overcome by the use of a Priestman dredger, which cut its way through from Jones's Lagoon to the sea. The soil it removed in making a channel for itself was used to form a roadbed. It proved to be of firmer material than had been expected, and there is no doubt of the durability of the road. The canal formed at the side has reduced the level of the water in the swamp and drained low land beyond it. It also affords a means by which small boats may enter the Sibun River without having to cross the dangerous bar. The road when completed will give a shorter and better road to the Cayo, as well as to the Manatee lands, and will open up some fair land near Belize. The scheme also includes a small canal from the Sibun to the Manatee lagoon.

The construction of the Stann Creek Railway renders available for agriculture a large area of Crown and private land. Lots of Crown land are now being laid out and will shortly be offered to public competition. The minimum price will be from $2 to $2.50 per acre; but purchasers will be under an obligation to put a certain proportion into cultivation within a given time. The British Honduras and Western Lands Syndicates (whose address in England is Parliament Chambers, 5, Parliament Street, Hull) also own large tracts of land on both sides of the railway, and it is believed are willing to sell or lease on reasonable terms. Bananas can be raised within eighteen months from commencing operations, and the demand at profitable prices is almost unlimited. Six fruit steamers call every month from New Orleans or Mobile.

Besides fruit it is proved that cocoanuts or cacao can be grown with profit. There is every reason to believe that rubber will also pay.

Steamers from Liverpool call every five or six weeks, and goods imported from Great Britain can be purchased locally at reasonable rates.

Eight steamers of the Scrutton Line were despatched to London, laden principally with timber.

The United Fruit Company of Boston have started a monthly steamer service with New York. The steamers reach Belize within seven days of their departure from New York. The return journey is viâ Southern ports and takes about a fortnight.

Mr. Porter, the District Commissioner of Belize, retired on pension on the 31st March, and the office of District Commissioner was amalgamated with that of the Registrar General, Mr. H. K. M. Sisnett being appointed to the combined post.

H. B. Walcott,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
537	British Central Africa Protectorate	1906–1907
538	Bechuanaland Protectorate	”
539	Leeward Islands	”
540	Straits Settlements	1906
541	Turks and Caicos Islands	”
542	Somaliland Protectorate	1906–1907
543	Bahamas	”
544	Barbados	”
545	Trinidad and Tobago	”
546	Grenada	”
547	Mauritius	1906
548	Fiji	”
549	Jamaica	1906–1907
550	British Guiana	”
551	Northern Nigeria	”
552	British Honduras	1906
553	St. Lucia	1906–1907
554	Southern Nigeria	1906
555	St. Vincent	1906–1907
556	Basutoland	”
557	East Africa Protectorate	”
558	Uganda Protectorate	”
559	Swaziland	”
560	St. Helena	1907
561	Ceylon	”
562	Falkland Islands	”
563	Gibraltar	”
564	Ashanti	”
565	Colonial Survey Committee	1907–1908
566	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1907
567	Seychelles	”
568	Bermuda	”
569	Weihaiwei	”
570	Hong Kong	”
571	Malta	1907–1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
44	East Africa Protectorate	Survey Department.
45	Do. do.	Geology.
46	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey (1904–5).
47	Do. do.	Do. (1905–6).
48	Nyasaland Protectorate	Do.
49	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Department.
50	British Colonies, &c.	Cotton Cultivation.
51	Southern Nigeria	Forest Administration.
52	South Africa	Native Education.
53	East Africa Protectorate	Veterinary Bacteriological Work, 1907–8.

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1908.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 631.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1908.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 572.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1910.

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No. 631.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1907, *see* No. 572.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Belize,
7th December, 1909.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book.

I have, &c.,
E. J. E. SWAYNE,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Earl of Crewe, K.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1908.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1908. The other returns are for the calendar year 1908.

On 1st April, 1907, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $254,648.24.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1906-7 and 1907-8, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue	Amount collected in the year 1906-7. $	Amount collected in the year 1907-8. $
1. Customs	191,092.16	221,081.43
2. Light Dues	9,527.28	10,308.56
3. Internal Taxation	62,776.28	66,899.29
4. Revenue of Government Property	13,546.94	12,167.80
4A. Revenue of Government Property (special)	50,000.00	—
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c. ...	22,811.28	23,490.64
6. Post Office and Telegraphs ...	14,762.99	22,326.81
7. Interest	8,298.59	9,189.57
8. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	125.54	119.54
9. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,704.61	2,616.61
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	374,645.67	368,200.25
10. Sale of Crown Lands	1,592.12	1,914.68
11. Casual Revenue	122.93	68.11
12. Supply of Coin	15,500.00	2,500.00
Total Revenue	391,860.72	395,183.04

Head of Revenue	Amount collected in the year 1906-7. $	Amount collected in the year 1907-8. $
Local Revenue:—		
Belize District	28,839.11	35,430.61*
Corosal District	3,277.88	3,158.08
Orange Walk District	2,046.29	2,649.24
Stann Creek District	2,957.95	2,861.83
Toledo District	2,022.45	2,334.48
Cayo District	722.64	1,310.50
Total Local Revenue ...	39,866.32	47,744.74
Grand Total	431,726.04	442,927.78

---

* Including temporary loan from General Revenue of $5,000.

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1906-7. $	Expenditure, 1907-8. $
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	10,526.95	10,539.43
2. Pensions	12,305.34	15,233.46
3. Governor	11,512.94	11,310.32
4. Colonial Secretary's Department	8,086.84	8,356.36
4A. Commissioners of Currency	—	670.75
5. Treasury and Custom House	19,043.20	19,809.55
5A. Treasury and Custom House (special expenditure) ...	950.00	—
6. Audit Department	2,309.57	2,502.81
7. Post Office and Telegraphs...	29,502.89	34,016.58
7A. Post Office and Telegraphs (special)	—	3,954.45
8. Judicial	12,700.03	13,169.62
9. District Commissioners ...	14,711.94	14,551.27
10. Police	36,552.24	36,541.93
11. Volunteer Force	4,645.89	6,933.04
12. Prisons	11,595.38	11,876.10
13. Medical Department ...	26,950.22	30,049.95
14. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	3,346.78	2,162.91
15. Education	17,423.80	17,945.54
16. Surveyor-General's Department	17,046.49	22,606.40
17. Botanic Station	2,650.57	2,621.07
18. Miscellaneous	7,952.36	6,426.29
19. Lighthouses	5,004.56	4,723.91

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure. 1906-7.	Expenditure. 1907-8.
	$	$
20. Public Works Department	3,293.12	2,825.55
21. Public Works Recurrent ...	21,291.76	21,260.11
22. Public Works Extraordinary	28,208.45	25,060.03
23. Loan Expenditure, Stann Creek Railway	5,554.55	178,802.46
24. Supply of Coin	8,272.79	12,750.73
Total Expenditure ...	321,438.66	516,700.62
Local Expenditure:—		
Belize District	29,076.49	29,989.58
Corosal District	3,030.89	3,304.79
Orange Walk District ...	1,267.18	1,415.31
Stann Creek District ...	1,931.60	3,227.78
Toledo District	2,039.47	2,576.89
Cayo District	1,112.59	998.66
Total Local Expenditure	38,458.22	41,513.01
Grand Total ...	359,896.88	558,213.63

No alteration was made in taxation, but an Ordinance providing for additional revenue, derivable from a small land tax, was passed in 1907 to take effect in 1908.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1903-4 to 1907-8:—

Year.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.
	$	$
1903-4	301,194	266,039
1904-5	309,790	282,258
1905-6	332,110	300,351
1906-7	391,861	321,439
1907-8	395,183	516,701

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1908, in respect of its assets and liabilities as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1907, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

	1906-7.	1907-8.
	$	$
Assets	341,319.07	244,910.35
Liabilities	92,225.38	117,334.24
Excess of Assets ...	249,093.69	127,576.11

At the end of the calendar year 1908 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $12,651.76. General Revenue had, however, expended a sum of $184,357.01 on the Stann Creek Railway, which is being recouped from a public loan to be raised. Practically, therefore, the surplus on General Revenue was $197,008.77. The surplus funds of the Colony continued to be invested to the amount of $71,478.36, part of the money required for the railway having been advanced by the Crown Agents.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1908:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 at $4.86)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 at $4.86)	97,200
Total	168,815

These debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest of the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1908:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s.*)	24,749.79
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000)	25,300.86
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923, £20,000)	36,298.97
Total Sinking Funds	86,349.62

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $149,500. There is also a bronze cent piece and a nickel bronze five cents piece, whose issues amount to $2,500 and $500, respectively.

Under Ordinance 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $5, $10, $50, and $100.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1908, was $123,993, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of

Currency held in gold in the Colony $87,029.48, and held investments in England, in accordance with the provisions of the law, amounting to $36,963.52.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1904 to 1908:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Germany.	Mexico.	Guatemala.	Honduras.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1904	467,449	6,621	991,613	27,488	174,892	6,999	55,313	26,944	1,757,319
1905	495,873	9.742	957,481	24,396	264,999	5,130	98,423	32,066	1,876,560
1906	587,456	8,309	1,123,681	34,820	345.430	3,939	70,487	26,419	2,200,541
1907	665,009	5.284	1,360,917	70,535	191,581	12,322	61,688	48,387	2,415,723
1908	690,454	6,530	1,152,114	71,977	599,184	34,770	75,160	46,534	2,676,723

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Mexico.	Guatemala.	Honduras.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1904	418,459	7,735	981,343	84,447	26,890	248,425	96,572	1,863,871
1905	470,750	17,400	955,595	115,841	14,039	223,300	38,325	1,835,250
1906	576,241	29,800	941,373	187,473	12,691	256,103	15,325	2,019,006
1907	454,102	27,017	1,146,808	221,130	24,451	334,991	2,537	2,211,036
1908	478,145	—	1,210,626	219,457	26,843	233,322	28,406	2,201,799

Exclusive of the coin and bullion of which $32,169 was imported, the value of the imports amounted to $2,644,554, an increase of $314,980 as compared with 1907, and $996,420 as compared with the average value of the imports for the preceding ten years.

Of the total imports the United Kingdom and the British Colonies supplied $696,984 or 26·04 per cent., as against $1,152,114 or 43·04 per cent. by the United States, and $827,625 or 30·92 per cent. by other countries.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom and British Colonies was $26,691 more than in the previous year, as compared with a decrease of $108,803 from the United States, and an increase of $443,112 from other countries.

The principal imports and the countries from which they came are as follows:—

	$
Aerated Waters:	
United Kingdom	3,116
United States	2,062
Germany	1,744
Bacon and Hams:	
United States	31,254
Beef and Pork:	
United States	75,755
Beer and Porter:	
United Kingdom	11,957
United States	16,498
Germany	3,438
Boots and Shoes:	
United Kingdom	4,042
United States	106,660
Butter:	
United Kingdom	4,634
United States	21,164
France	2,977
Candles:	
United Kingdom	477
United States	5,229
Germany	269
Cattle:	
Honduras	49,024
Cheese:	
United Kingdom	3,500
United States	14,336
Chicle:	
Mexico	154,405
Guatemala	22,541
Cigars:	
Mexico	4,156
Cigarettes:	
United Kingdom	2,084
United States	3,978
Clothing:	
United Kingdom	24,092
United States	22,799
Coffee:	
United States	5,232
Honduras	4,907
Guatemala	1,704
Cotton Goods:	
United Kingdom	151,518
United States	112,046
Germany	17,132
France	4,918
Drugs and Chemicals:	
United Kingdom	6,867
United States	27,727

	$
Earthen and Glassware:	
United Kingdom	6,784
United States	3,646
Germany	5,510
Fish (salted):	
United States	4,726
Flour:	
United States	116,302
Fruit and Vegetables:	
United Kingdom	1,063
United States	12,358
Furniture:	
United Kingdom	866
United States	7,767
Guns and Rifles:	
United Kingdom	3,070
United States	4,575
Hardware, &c.:	
United Kingdom	25,594
United States	41,585
Germany	5,105
Hats:	
United Kingdom	12,345
United States	5,651
Honduras	2,534
Hay and Oats:	
United Kingdom	5,150
United States	14,339
Indian Corn:	
United States	6,371
Mexico	812
Iron Roofing:	
United Kingdom	15,159
Jewellery, &c.:	
United Kingdom	2,874
United States	4,007
Lamps and Lampware:	
United Kingdom	118
United States	3,242
Lard:	
United States	20,366
Logwood:	
Mexico	595
Lumber:	
United States	32,030
Machinery:	
United Kingdom	7,056
United States	31,452
Matches:	
United States	4,419
Mahogany:	
Mexico	421,434

	$
Musical Instruments:	
United Kingdom	2,106
United States	4,880
Germany	3,104
Oil (kerosene):	
United States	25,707
Oil (other):	
United Kingdom	3,911
United States	2,928
Paints:	
United Kingdom	7,872
United States	3,063
Perfumery:	
United Kingdom	4,250
United States	5,771
Germany	2,356
France	1,597
Plant (railway, &c.):	
United Kingdom	119,839
United States	19,309
Provisions (tinned):	
United Kingdom	78,956
United States	122,665
Germany	5,993
Rice:	
United Kingdom	37,326
United States	2,133
Rope and Twine:	
United States	9,587
Rubber:	
Honduras	2,878
Saddlery, &c.:	
United Kingdom:	2,638
United States	1,514
Salt:	
United Kingdom	1,485
Sewing Machines:	
United States	3,323
Ship Chandlery:	
United States	3,180
Shot and Ammunition:	
United Kingdom	1,134
United States	4,890
Silks:	
United Kingdom	3,648
Germany	1,284
China	1,100
Soap:	
United Kingdom	31,221
United States	6,403
Spirits (brandy):	
United Kingdom	1,885
France	5,320

	$
Spirits (gin):	
United Kingdom	1,532
Holland	1,306
Spirits (whisky):	
United Kingdom	6,748
United States	5,210
Sugar (refined):	
United Kingdom	1,625
United States	10,221
Tanks and Vats:	
United States	11,291
Tea:	
United Kingdom	9,929
Wines (sparkling):	
United Kingdom	650
Wines (still):	
United Kingdom	9,919
United States	1,317
Germany	6,701
France	4,447
Spain	2,926
Wood and Wickerware:	
United States	2,694
Woollen Goods:	
United Kingdom	14,657

The increase in the value of imports in 1908 was due to the large importations of mahogany from Mexico to a great extent, but in some measure to the fact that in 1907 no proper system for accounting for "in transit" mahogany was kept, so that the value could be correctly ascertained. The food supply it will be seen is nearly all imported from the United States. The decrease in the imports from the United States was due to the falling off in the transit trade with the Republic of Honduras. Had it not been for the importation of nearly $120,000 worth of railway plant from the United Kingdom, the imports from that place would have been less than in the previous year.

The following comparative statement shows the value of the principal articles imported in 1898 and 1908 with the countries whence they came:—

	1898.	1908.
	$	$
Aerated Waters:		
United Kingdom	1,430	3,116
United States	—	2,062
Boots and Shoes:		
United Kingdom	5,865	4,042
United States	38,483	106,760
Clothing:		
United Kingdom	26,952	24,692
United States	8,467	22,799

	1898.	1908.
	$	$
Cotton Goods:		
United Kingdom	90,078	167,518
United States	66,613	112,046
Germany	1,799	17,132
Drugs and Chemicals:		
United Kingdom	3,953	6,867
United States	9,727	27,727
Hardware and Cutlery:		
United Kingdom	17,577	25,594
United States	18,061	41,585
Germany	599	5,105
Provisions (tinned):		
United Kingdom	74,557	78,956
United States	62,614	122,665
Rope and Twine:		
United Kingdom	3,117	4,711
United States	4,058	9,587

The imports of chicle from Mexico increased from $103,374 in 1907 to $154,405 in 1908, and from Guatemala from $5,125 in 1907 to $22,541 in 1908. The increased imports from Honduras were largely due to the increased value of cattle and coffee imported. In 1907 the value of cattle imported was $39,439. In 1908 it was $49,024. In 1907 the value of coffee imported was $2,706. In 1908 it was $4,907.

The Customs Import Duties amounted to $196,361.50 as compared with $206,888.92 in 1907.

It is satisfactory to note that the import trade of the Colony has steadily increased from year to year, and that the imports for the year under review were $1,398,106 in excess of those of 1899, or more than double those of that year.

A comparison of the value of the imports in 1899 and 1908, and the relative positions of the several countries sending goods to the Colony in those years is shown below:—

1899.

	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom	323,493	31·36
British Colonies	4,669	·46
United States	615,168	59·64
Germany	10,123	·98
France	3,341	·32
Other Countries	74,679	7·24

1908.

	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom	690,454	25·80
British Colonies	6,530	·24
United States	1,152,114	43·04
Germany	71,977	2·69
France	25,418	·95
Other Countries	730,230	27·28

The falling off in the proportion of trade with the United Kingdom is due to the competition of the United States in such articles as cotton goods, drugs and chemicals, hardware, cutlery, and tinned provisions of all sorts, and also to the competition of Germany in cotton goods, earthen and glassware, hardware, perfumery, and toys.

The increase as shown under "other countries" is mainly due to the opening up of the Mexican territory bordering on the Rio Hondo, the produce of which, consisting of mahogany, logwood, chicle and rubber, is imported into and shipped from the port of Belize.

The classes under which the increase in the value of the imports has occurred, as compared with 1907, are as follows:—

	$	$	$
Class II. Raw Materials—			
1907	194,921		
1908	646,374		
Increase		451,453	
Class III. Manufactured Materials—			
3. Other			
1907	205,014		
1908	614,492		
Increase		409,478	
Total increase ...			860,931
Less decreases under:—			
Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.—			
1907	907,060		
1908	832,318		
Decrease		74,742	
Class III. Manufactured Materials.			
1. Textile.			
1907	529,458		
1908	402,283		
Decrease		127,175	
2. Metal.			
1907	205,014		
1908	149,087		
Decrease		55,927	
Class IV. Coin, Bullion and Specie—			
1907	86,149		
1908	32,169		
Decrease		53,980	
Total decrease ...			311,824
Net increase ...			549,107

Exports.

The value of the exports for the year amounted to $2,201,799, or $9,237 less than the exports for 1907.

The exports were distributed under the following heads:—

	$
British Honduras produce	1,166,685
Imports re-exported	1,008,974
Bullion and coin	26,140
Total	$2,201,799

Of the total exports the United Kingdom and British Colonies took $478,145 or 21·72 per cent., the United States $1,210,626 or 54·98 per cent., Honduras $238,322 or 10·82 per cent., Mexico $219,457 or 9·97 per cent., and other countries $55,249 or 2·51 per cent.

The exports for 1908 were taken by the following countries:—

United Kingdom:

		$
Mahogany	6,166,920 feet	357,672
Cedar	112,625 ,,	6,146
Logwood	4,617 tons	86,842
Rubber	267 lbs.	157
Chicle	9,044 ,,	2,394
Tortoise shell	2,491 ,,	12,022
		465,233

United States:

		$
Mahogany	8,218,261 feet	424,190
Cedar	451,993 ,,	23,348
Logwood	407 tons	8,954
Bananas	471,600 bchs.	112,294
Plantains	939,000 nos.	7,125
Coconuts	5,072,150 ,,	83,068
Chicle	1,721,536 lbs.	501,987
Sarsaparilla	1,189 ,,	348
		1,179,211

The increase in the export of mahogany and cedar to the United States noticed in last year's report has been steadily maintained. In 1907 it was 5,069,856 feet, valued at $261,329. In 1908 it was 8,660,254 feet, valued at $447,538, an increase of 58·54 per cent. The quantity shipped to the United Kingdom increased from 4,906,044 feet in 1907 to 6,279,545 feet in 1908.

The exports to Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala mostly consist of imports re-exported.

The increase and decrease of exports under classes are as under:—

—	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
Class 1.—Live Animals and Food, &c.:	$		$
1907	267,217	249,903	517,120
1908	221,404	180,428	401,832
Decrease	45,813	69,475	115,288
Class 2.—Raw Materials:			
1907	881,929	358,037	1,239,966
1908	944,231	560,944	1,505,175
Increase...	62,302	202,907	265,209
Class 3.—Manufactured Material:			
1907	1,069	309,537	310,606
1908	1,050	267,602	268,652
Decrease	19	41,935	41,954
Class 4.—Bullion and Coin:			
1907	—	143,344	143,344
1908	—	26,140	26,140
Decrease	—	117,204	117,204

Of the total exports the following table gives those produced in the Colony itself for 1908 as compared with the same for 1907:—

—	1907.	1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
Bananas	Bchs. 652,930	Bchs. 471,600	—	Bchs. 181,330
Cedar	Ft. 331,636	Ft. 413,044	Ft. 81,408	—
Chicle	Lbs. 1,074,042	Lbs. 755,637	—	Lbs. 318,405
Cocoa	46,435	29,174	—	16,261
Coconuts	No. 4,550,175	No. 5,072,150	No. 521,975	—
Hides, &c.	Lbs. 12,034	Lbs. 15,547	Lbs. 3,513	—
Logwood	Tons. 6,167	Tons. 5,367	—	Tons. 800
Mahogany	Ft. 6,871,920	Ft. 9,957,536	Ft. 3,085,616	—
Plantains	No. 849,550	No. 939,000	No. 89,450	—
Rosewood	Tons. 306	Tons. 113	—	Tons. 193
Rubber	Lbs. 24,112	Lbs. 25,380	Lbs. 1,268	Lbs. —
Sarsaparilla	886	Nil	—	886
Sugar	93,360	88,350	—	5,010
Tortoise shell	2,987	2,191	—	796
Rum	Galls. 5,516	Galls. 3,122	—	Galls. 2,384

The revenue from the export duty of 75 cents per 1,000 feet on mahogany brought in $9,814.31, and from the duty on logwood of 25 cents per ton $1,198.64.

The total trade of the Colony amounted in all to $4,878,522; imports $2,676,723; exports $2,201,799. The corresponding figures for the previous year, which had been the largest on record, were $4,626,759; imports $2,415,723; exports $2,211,036—an increase for 1908 of $261,000 on imports, and a decrease of $9,237 on exports.

Excise.

During the year 10 stills were licensed, the net output of which, as declared to by the distillers, amounted to 57,964 proof gallons.

A very satisfactory increase of the quantity of rum returned and the duty collected is being shown from year to year, due mainly to the replacement of the old and worn out stills with new and improved ones, and to better and more constant supervision by the Excise Officers.

The output for the years 1904-1908 was as under:—

Year.	No. of Stills.	Rum Returned.	Duty Collected.
		Gallons.	$
1904	13	42,491	45,018
1905	11	40,168	43,394
1906	10	43,975	48,196
1907	11	57,826	51,707
1908	10	57,964	47,731

The total amount of rum exported during the year from the Colony was 3,311 gallons, of which 3,122 gallons were the produce of the Colony. All this rum was exported to the neighbouring Republics.

The export of cacao was less than the two previous years, as will be seen from the following comparative table:—

Year.	Export.
	Lbs.
1904	14,742
1905	18,988
1906	42,800
1907	46,435
1908	29,174

Forty-nine sugar mills were in operation, of which eleven were worked by steam, two by oil engines, and the rest by cattle. The amount produced was (with the exception of some 39 tons exported to Mexico and Honduras) consumed in the Colony.

Two saw mills were in operation—one at Mullins River in the Stann Creek District, and one at Duck Run on the Belize River, in the Cayo District.

The sponge fishery yielded 8,177 lbs., and the exports of tortoise-shell amounted to 2,191½ lbs.

Nineteen grants of rural land were made with an acreage of 3,195 acres. Prices varied from 75 cents to $2.50, according to the locality of the land.

The area of rural land under lease was 27,533½ acres in holdings, producing a rental of $3,552.92.

The revenue from licences to cut timber amounted to $7,062.61, as against $10,632.50 in 1907 and $7,469.56 in 1906.

Licences to bleed sapodilla gum (chicle) realised $1,215.20, and rubber $214.30.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared, respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1904	487	13,782	289	239,117
1905	464	11,728	270	234,163
1906	712	12,410	276	218,837
1907	720	14,901	305	242,568
1908	566	14,838	288	239,940

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1904	501	14,406	268	236,252
1905	520	11,621	283	238,953
1906	705	13,191	281	211,487
1907	715	14,831	306	245,572
1908	576	14,988	290	237,677

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1904	321	8,414	8	702	2	801
1905	263	6,629	61	1,826	1	450
1906	359	7,649	35	1,629	—	—
1907	567	10,850	27	1,838	—	—
1908	395	8,810	59	3,107	—	—

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1904	320	8,640	10	719	2	865
1905	284	7,276	50	1,689	—	—
1906	354	7,951	35	1,677	1	450
1907	551	10,443	30	2,047	—	—
1908	401	8,815	64	3,266	—	—

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1904	134	160,751	35	4,467	116	70,427
1905	125	162,016	41	4,330	98	59,641
1906	124	158,146	62	1,669	76	49,936
1907	89	110,250	61	3,106	114	92,353
1908	47	79,856	55	2,762	141	112,259

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1904	130	161,465	21	3,521	107	65,088
1905	124	166,155	45	1,615	105	64,047
1906	119	150,388	73	2,057	76	50,106
1907	92	117,424	61	1,558	114	92,353
1908	48	79,932	60	2,958	138	109,748

It will be seen that the Norwegian steamships are replacing British steamers in the fruit trade with the United States. All new vessels entering into this trade in Central America seem to be Norwegian built. The Norwegian sailor seems to re-engage more steadily than the British or American, and this gives an advantage to Norwegian owners.

The Light and Wharf Dues for the year amounted to $9,689.24, as against $10,056 for 1907 and $8,872 for 1906.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were enacted during 1908, of which the following were the most important:—

Ordinance No. 8 legalises marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

Ordinance No. 16 provides for the examination and registration of chemists and druggists. At present it only applies to the town of Belize.

Ordinance No. 17 provides for compensation being given to annual tenants of small holdings when the tenancy is put an end to by the landlord; and allows any agricultural tenant on the expiration of a tenancy to remove the buildings he has erected, with a proviso giving the landlord a right to purchase the building when it is the tenant who puts an end to the tenancy.

Ordinance No. 19 provides for the introduction of East Indian labourers from Canada; and Ordinance No. 20 empowers the Government to make advances for the cost of their passage money. Owing to the circumstances of the East Indians in Canada having altered since it was proposed to find employment for them in British Honduras, the proposed immigration did not take place.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as President, the Members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1908 was $15,629.52, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	14,128.41
Grants on account of pupil teachers	1,073.36
Grants in aid of new buildings	250.00
Needlework grants	177.75
	15,629.52

Although the Government grant for the Board of Education for the financial year 1908-9 was somewhat greater than that of the previous year it was impossible to give any bonuses on examination results for the year 1907. The average daily attendances so far exceeded those of previous years that the attendance grants earned exceeded the amount available. An increased grant has been provided for 1909.

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $28,862. Of this sum the Government contributed $17,557.27, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	15,629.52
Expenses of administration ...	1,927.75

The cost per head on the total average attendance (3,130) was $9.22. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the two preceding years:—

—	1906.	1907.	1908.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government	6·14	5·89	5·61
School Fees	·85	·93	·87
Voluntary Contributions	3·02	3·12	2·74
Totals	10·01	9·94	9·22

The average attendances during 1906, 1907, and 1908 were 2,876, 3,043, and 3,130 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 42. There were 40 in 1907, and 39 in 1906.

The total number of pupils on the roll was 4,385, as compared with 4,277 in 1907 and 3,945 in 1906.

There were also in operation seven unaided primary schools with about 150 in average daily attendance.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table:—

Schools: Denomination.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Receipts of School fees per unit of average attendance.		
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1906.	1907.	1908.
				$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England	506	535	541	613·71	745·92	671·46	1·21	1·39	1·24
Roman Catholic ...	1,329	1,421	1,448	808·33	990·55	939·49	·61	·70	·65
Wesleyan	691	734	800	707·45	785·62	769·90	1·02	1·00	·96
Baptist	184	195	208	140·40	181·47	186·85	·76	·93	·89
Non-denominational	166	158	133	184·40	172·30	148·85	1·11	1·09	1·12
	2,876	3,043	3,130	2,454·29	2,825·86	2,716·55	·85	·93	·87

The smallest proportion of fees is received by the Roman Catholic Schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

The sum of $129.18 was expended on account of the Cambridge University Local Examinations held in December, 1907, at which no candidates were successful. In 1908 29 candidates presented themselves, of whom six passed the Preliminary and four the Junior Examinations.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor House.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1908:—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1908.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1908.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	34	495	419	72	42	42·64
Corosal Hospital ...	6	91	79	12	6	5·5
Orange Walk Hospital	3	112	102	12	1	5·39
Belize:						
Lunatic Asylum ...	56	10	6	5	55	57·05
Poor House ...	31	26	4	16	37	32·47

Savings Banks.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors was 630. Deposits amounted to $27,924.34, and withdrawals to $30,386.93. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1908 was $68,086.31.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $67,663.75.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The authorised strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, and 105 non-commissioned officers and men. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine. Owing to the development of the Colony, it will be necessary to somewhat increase the establishment.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison from 1904 to 1908:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1904	250	58·41
1905	299	54·32
1906	420	54·24
1907	304	60·35
1908	342	61·30

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prison they are employed in tailoring, printing, bookbinding, carpentry, tin smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ship fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 66 punishments. No corporal punishment was inflicted on a prisoner during the years 1901 to 1908. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There was one death from dysentery. There was one execution.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1908 was 1,589, or 51 more than in 1907. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,088, or 145 more than in 1907.

Informations were filed against 51 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 39 cases, and for the prisoner in eight. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in four cases.

There was one conviction for murder and two for manslaughter. Fifteen convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, and 14 for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 43,270, consisting of 22,043 males and 21,227 females.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Year.	Diseases.									
	Malarial Fever.	Dysentery.	Small-pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.
1899 ...	9·2	1·9	—	—	—	1·5	3·6	·4	4·7	2·5
1900 ...	8·6	1·1	—	—	—	1·0	3·3	·7	1·7	1·6
1901 ...	9·4	1·5	—	—	—	·9	2·8	·9	1·7	1·9
1902 ...	8·8	1·3	—	—	—	·9	1·5	1·0	1·9	2·1
1903 ...	8·6	1·0	—	—	—	1·3	2·7	·4	1·6	1·7
1904 ...	8·1	·9	—	—	—	1·2	2·1	·5	1·4	2·1
1905 ...	9·3	1·3	—	·173	—	1·3	1·9	·6	2·0	2·8
1906 ...	9·6	·9	—	—	—	1·6	1·9	·4	4·7	2·0
1907 ...	7·0	·7	—	—	—	1·5	2·6	2·7	1·8	3·1
1908 ...	6·1	·8	—	—	—	1·2	·2	·9	1·1	3·1

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1903-07, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1908:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1903-07.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1908.
Indian	104·17 ...	78·1
Carib	53·32 ...	50·0
Negro	58·21 ...	57·8
Other races	76·91 ...	63·3

The birth rate was 36·74, and the mortality 23·34 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 614, out of a total of 1,590.

Four hundred and six marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·38 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1904... ...	1,500	37·8	386	989	24·9
1905... ...	1,403	34·7	423	1,331	32·9
1906... ...	1,349	32·9	385	1,228	29·9
1907... ...	1,553	36·6	456	941	22·1
1908... ...	1,590	36·7	406	1,010	23·3

During 1908 the excess of male over female births was 6, and of male over female deaths 70.

During the absence on leave of the Colonial Surgeon the late Hospital Attendant was negligent in recording meteorological observations. The following figures are, therefore, only approximate:—

Barometer, corrected, highest	30·836
,, ,, lowest	29·751
Relative humidity, highest	97
,, ,, lowest	74
Shade temperature, highest	95°
,, ,, lowest	65°
Rainfall (about)	80 inches.

Number of days on which rain fell about 80.

The average rainfall for the ten years 1899-1908 in Belize was 88·33 inches; the maximum—114·21 inches—being in 1900, and the minimum—65·89 inches—in 1902. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell.

Comparative return.

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1899	80·47 ...	152
1900	114·12 ...	160
1901	83·6 ...	116
1902	65·89 ...	107
1903	70·90 ...	118
1904	87· ...	119
1905	106·42 ...	109
1906	99·32 ...	102
1907	91·17 ...	80
1908	80 ? ...	80 ?

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $13,235.42, as compared with $15,405.34 in 1907. The decrease is due to fewer purchases having been made by stamp collectors.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $11,326.97, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,881.99, making a total expenditure of $24,208.96. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $4,990.32.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1904-1908 were as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908
Ordinary letters	152,960	157,265	157,790	179,084	188,603
Registered letters	7,951	8,015	8,996	9,778	9,725
Postcards	12,053	18,585	17,763	24,638	24,547
Newspapers, books, &c. ...	100,347	103,160	103,679	112,180	114,817
Postal parcels	3,484	4,204	4,978	5,234	7,618

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Letters	68,886	64,798	66,001	82,997	104,263
Registered articles ...		2 578	2,563	3,793	4,416
Post cards	1,375	1,547	1,398	1,485	1,940
Newspapers, books, and parcels.	9,994	9,789	13,189	11,285	15,799

An inland Parcel Post system was brought into force on the 1st October.

The transactions in connection with the money order system from 1904 to 1908 were as follows:—

Money Orders issued on the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1904	1,441	6	7
1905	1,476	12	2
1906	1,375	0	1
1907	1,627	10	5
1908	1,845	7	0

Money Orders issued on the United States of America.

	$
1904	4,415.44
1905	6,470.04
1906	8,887.10
1907	25,113.88
1908	25,436.09

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by the United Kingdom and British Colonies.

	£	*s.*	*d.*
1904	229	5	2
1905	232	15	1
1906	295	8	4
1907	431	17	5
1908	283	4	6

Money Orders drawn on the Colony by the United States of America.

	$
1904	404.61
1905	809.65
1906	1,288.31
1907	1,687.61
1908	1,660.21

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1905, 1906, 1907, and 1908:—

Year.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1905	15,305	7,992	23,297
1906	14,887	10,195	25,082
1907	19,023	12,089	31,112
1908	11,848	16,036	27,884

The working expenses of the system amounted to $10,641.84, and the receipts to $6,083.93.

Telegrams from the United States and Mexico are sent by boat from Consejo in this Colony to Payo Obispo, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony was again free from quarantinable disease. Medical supervision of the steamers doing business with the southern Republics was continued.

The year 1908 had, like 1907, an unusually long dry season, and it was again found necessary to send to Manatee for drinking water for Belize. Owing to the amount of water stored being larger than in 1907, and to our being better prepared with means of transport, the expense was not so great. At the end of the year further storage to the extent of 350,000 gallons was provided.

On the 17th October the first section of the Stann Creek railway was declared open, and some forty people, of whom half came from Belize, accepted the invitation of the Officer Administering the Government to be present. The "City of Belize" came alongside the new pier, and the visitors stepped from her upper deck on to the cars in the morning, and went by train over the open section and some way beyond, returning to Belize in the evening. Although at the time of writing a satisfactory traffic is being carried over 15 miles of the line, very little use of the railway was made by the public before the end of the year under review. The depth of water at the pier head varies from 21 to 24 feet. Buoys and dolphins have been provided, and steamers can safely lie alongside in almost any weather. Land near the railway may be purchased from the Government for $3 to $8 per acre, but purchasers will be under an obligation to put a proportion into cultivation within a given time. The British Honduras and Western Lands Syndicates, of Parliament Chambers, 5, Parliament Street, Hull, also own large tracts of land on both sides of the railway, and are willing to sell or lease in large or small holdings.

Coconut plantations have been, and continue to be, very profitable. Cacao does well, and is indigenous in the Colony. The rubber plantations are too young for it to be possible to judge of the results; but, except where the drought followed too closely after planting, the trees have done well.

Steamers from Liverpool call at intervals of thirty or thirty-three days, and goods imported from Great Britain can be purchased locally at reasonable rates.

Ten steamers of the Scrutton Line were despatched to London laden principally with mahogany, cedar, or logwood.

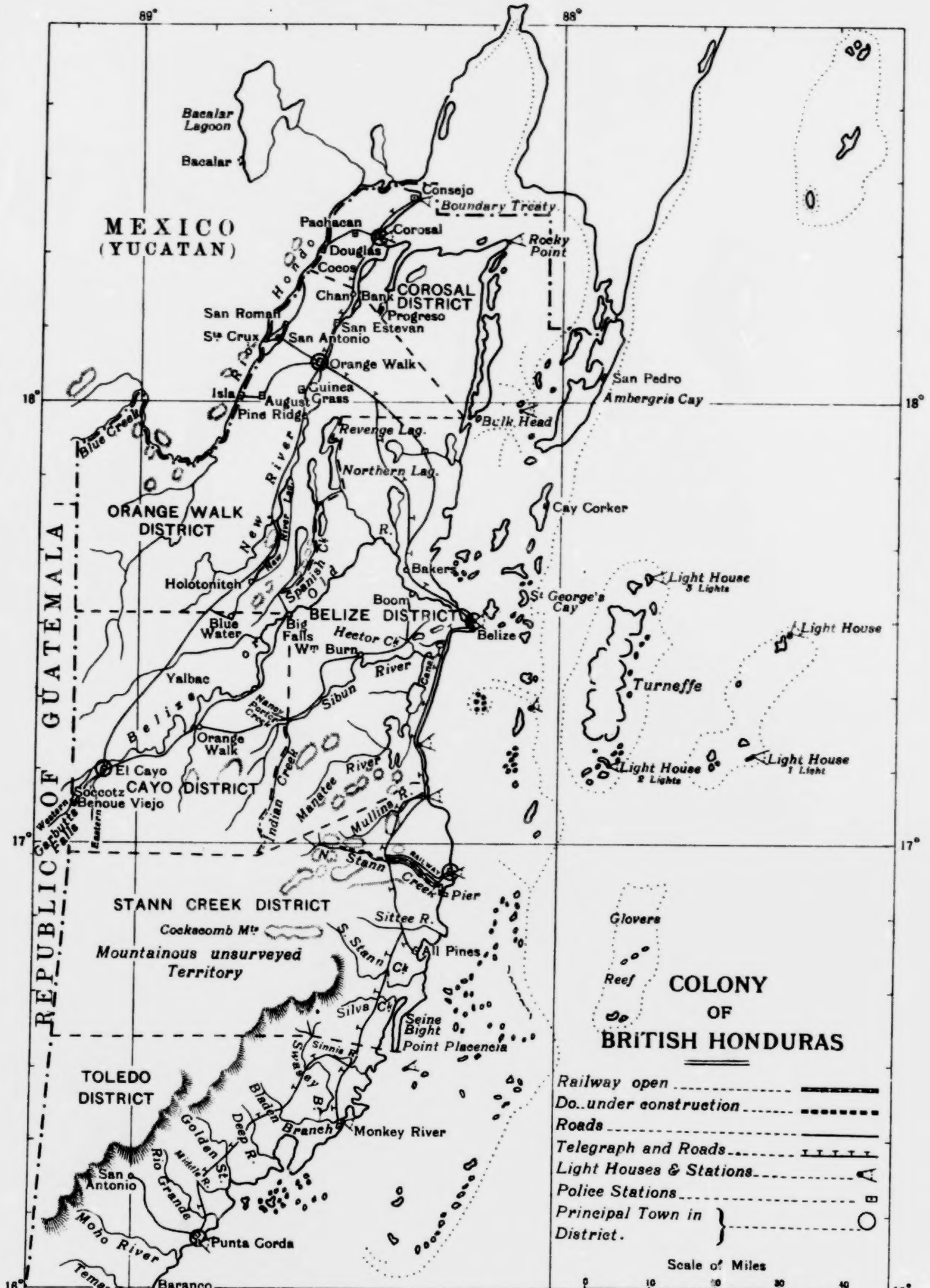
Six fruit steamers call every month from New Orleans and Mobile, and in addition there is a weekly passenger service by vessels of 5,000 tons under the British flag between New Orleans, Belize, Barrios, Limon, and Bocas del Toro and *vice versâ*.

A steamer leaves New York for Belize direct every four weeks returning viâ southern ports and Jamaica.

WILFRED COLLET,

Colonial Secretary.

6th December, 1909.


COLONY OF BRITISH HONDURAS
Railway open
Do..under construction
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District.
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°
MEXICO (YUCATAN)
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Rocky Point
Chan Bank
COROSAL DISTRICT
Progreso
San Estevan
San Roman
Rio Hondo
Sta Crux
San Antonio
Orange Walk
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Isla
August
Guinea Grass
Pine Ridge
Bulk Head
Blue Creek
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
New River
New River Lag.
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
Cay Corker
R.
Spanish Ck
Old
Bakers
Holotonitch
Light House 3 Lights
Boom
St George's Cay
BELIZE DISTRICT
Belize
Blue Water
Big Falls
Hector Ck
Light House
Wm Burn
River
Yalbac
Belize
Sibun
Turneffe
Hanover Portion Creek
Orange Walk
El Cayo
CAYO DISTRICT
Indian Creek
Manatee River
Light House 2 Lights
Light House 1 Light
Soccotz
Benoue Viejo
Western
Garbutts Falls
Eastern
Mullins R.
N. Stann Creek
Railway
Pier
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Cockscomb Mts
Glovers
Sittee R.
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
S. Stann Ck
All Pines
Reef
Silva Ck
Seine Bight
Point Placencia
Sinnis R.
Swasey B.
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bladen Branch
Deep R.
Golden St.
Monkey River
Rio Grande
Middle R.
San Antonio
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
Gracias a Dios Falls
Rio Dulce
Pta Caballo
Pto Cortez
Omoa
Railway

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept: 1909.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS.

The following recent reports relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
596	Swaziland	1907–1908
597	St. Helena	1908
598	Gibraltar	"
599	Falkland Islands	"
600	Uganda	1907–1908
601	Imperial Institute	1908
602	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
603	Ashanti	"
604	Ceylon	"
605	Weihaiwei	"
606	Seychelles	"
607	Jamaica	1907–1908
608	Colonial Survey Committee	1908–1909
609	Gambia	1908
610	Malta	1908–1909
611	Sierra Leone	1908
612	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
613	Gold Coast	"
614	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1908–1909
615	Bahamas	"
616	St. Lucia	1908
617	Hong Kong	"
618	Fiji	"
619	Nyasaland Protectorate	1908–1909
620	Barbados	"
621	Trinidad and Tobago	"
622	Straits Settlements	1908
623	Somaliland	1908–1909
624	Mauritius	1908
625	St. Vincent	1908–1909
626	Jamaica	"
627	Swaziland	"
628	Grenada	1908
629	Leeward Islands	1908–1909
630	Southern Nigeria	1908

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
58	British Colonies	Fibres.
59	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1906–7.
60	Nyasaland Protectorate	" " 1907–8.
61	South Africa	Agriculture and Viticulture.
62	Uganda Protectorate	Cotton Industry.
63	Imperial Institute	Gums and Resins.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905–6.
68	Do. do.	Do. do. 1906–7.

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1910.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 667.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1909.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 631.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1911.

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No. 667.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1908, *see* No. 631.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House, Belize,
23rd November, 1910.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for 1909.

I have, &c.,
E. J. E. SWAYNE, Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
Lewis Harcourt, M.P.,
&c., &c., &c.

(18368—2.) Wt. 31959—459. 1125 & 85. 1/11. D & S.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1909.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1909. The other returns are for the calendar year 1909.

On 1st April, 1908, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $311,933.12.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1907-8 and 1908-9, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1907-8.	Amount collected in the year 1908-9.
	$	$
1. Customs	221,081.43	205,488.24
2. Light Dues	10,308.56	9,484.29
3. Internal Taxation	66,899.29	74,586.58
4. Revenue of Government Property	12,167.80	12,103.76
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c. ...	23,490.64	22,272.38
6. Post Office	22,326.81	14,815.50
7. Telegraphs	—	5,907.85
8. Interest	9,189.57	6,371.98
9. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	119.54	479.32
10. Miscellaneous Receipts	2,616.61	1,899.62
10A. Railway Receipts	—	231.70
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	368,200.25	353,641.22
11. Sale of Crown Lands	1,914.68	7,067.51
12. Casual Revenue	68.11	206.07
13. Supply of Coin	2,500.00	—
Total Revenue ...	395,183.04	360,914.80

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1907-8. $	Amount collected in the year 1908-9. $
Local Revenue:—		
Belize District	35,430.61*	42,107.72†
Corosal District	3,158.08	3,012.30
Orange Walk District	2,649.24	2,428.75
Stann Creek District	2,861.83	2,956.78
Toledo District	2,334.48	2,009.11
Cayo District	1,310.50	1,304.30
Total Local Revenue ...	47,744.74	53,818.96
Grand Total ...	442,927.78	414,733.76

---

* Including temporary loan from general revenue of $5,000.
† „ „ „ „ „ „ „ $7,000.

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1907-8. $	Expenditure, 1908-9. $
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	10,539.43	11,536.27
2. Pensions	15,233.46	13,444.19
3. Governor	11,310.32	11,496.53
4. Colonial Secretary's Department	8,356.36	8,231.16
4A. Commissioners of Currency	670.75	660.00
5. Treasury and Custom House	19,809.55	20,854.10
6. Audit Department	2,502.81	2,706.70
7. Post Office	34,016.58	25,226.50
8. Telegraphs		11,033.06
8A. Post Office and Telegraphs (special)	3,954.45	814.20
9. Judicial	13,169.62	14,698.75
10. District Commissioners ...	14,551.27	14,356.00
11. Police	36,541.93	37,174.07
12. Volunteer Force	6,933.04	6,842.66
13. Prisons	11,876.10	12,429.91
14. Medical Department ...	30,049.95	33,282.64
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	2,162.91	8,451.20
16. Education	17,945.54	19,729.15
17. Surveyor-General's Department	22,606.40	24,214.16
18. Botanic Station	2,621.07	2,615.46
19. Miscellaneous	6,426.29	7,679.00
20. Lighthouses	4,723.91	4,794.25
21. Public Works Department...	2,825.55	5,556.43

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1907-8.	Expenditure, 1908-9.
	$	$
22. Public Works Recurrent ...	21,260.11	25,161.27
23. Public Works Extraordinary	25,060.03	14,108.20
24. Loan Expenditure, Stann Creek Railway	178,802.46	199,482.99
25. Supply of Coin	12,750.73	—
Total Expenditure ...	516,700.62	535,978.94
Local Expenditure:—		
Belize District	29,989.58	36,623.09
Corozal District	3,304.79	3,051.66
Orange Walk District ...	1,415.31	1,373.16
Stann Creek District ...	3,227.78	2,760.64
Toledo District	2,576.89	2,465.86
Cayo District	998.66	572.05
Total Local Expenditure	41,513.01	46,846.46
Grand Total ...	558,213.63	582,825.40

A duty of half a cent a lb. on chicle exported from the Colony was imposed by Ordinance No. 3 of 1909.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1904-5 to 1908-9:—

Year.	General Revenue—Amount.	General Expenditure—Amount.
	$	$
1904-5	309,790	282,258
1905-6	332,110	300,351
1906-7	391,861	321,439
1907-8	395,183	516,701
1908-9	360,915	535,979

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1909, in respect of its assets and liabilities as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1908, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

	1907-8.	1908-9.
	$	$
Assets	244,910.35	582,417.08
Liabilities	117,334.24	246,065.11
Excess of Assets ...	127,576.11	336,351.97

At the end of the calendar year 1909 there was an apparent deficit on General Revenue Account of £173,497.50. General Revenue had, however, expended a sum of $512,503.82 on the

Stann Creek Railway, which is being recouped from a public loan to be raised. Practically, therefore, the surplus on General Revenue was $339,006.32. The surplus funds of the Colony continued to be invested to the amount of $71,843.69, part of the money required for the railway having been advanced by the Crown Agents.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1909:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 at $4.86)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 at $4.86)	97,200
Total	168,815

The debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one half of the interest of the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1909:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875=£5,735 12*s*.	25,185.71
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000)	26,406.30
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923, £20,000)	37,973.81
Total Sinking Funds	89,565.82

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $149,500. There is also a bronze cent piece and a nickel bronze five cents piece, whose issues amount to $2,750 and $1,000 respectively.

Under Ordinance 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $5, $10, $50, and $100.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1909, was $123,170, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in gold in the Colony $86,206.48, and held investments in England in accordance with the provisions of the law, amounting to $36,963.52.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1905 to 1909:—

Imports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Germany.	Mexico.	Guatemala.	Honduras.	Other Countries.	Total Imports.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1905 ...	495,873	9,742	957,481	24,396	264,999	5,130	86,423	32,066	1,876,560
1906 ...	587,456	8,309	1,123,681	34,820	345,430	3,989	70,487	26,419	2,200,541
1907 ...	665,009	5,284	1,360,917	70,535	191.581	12,322	61,688	48,387	2,415,723
1908 ...	690,454	6,530	1,152,114	71,977	599.184	34,770	75,160	46,534	2,676,723
1909 ...	551,840	15,133	1.135,145	41,861	755,126	87,825	65,174	52,144	2,704,248

Exports.

Year.	United Kingdom.	Colonies.	United States.	Mexico.	Guatemala.	Honduras.	Other Countries.	Total Exports.
	$	$	$	$	$	$	$	$
1905 ...	470,750	17,400	955,595	115,841	14,039	223,800	33,325	1,835,250
1906 ...	576,241	29,800	941,373	187,473	12,691	256,103	15,325	2,019,006
1907 ...	454,102	27,017	1,146,808	221,130	24,451	334,991	2,537	2,211,036
1908 ...	478,145	—	1,210,626	219,457	26,843	238,322	28,406	2,201,799
1909 ...	355,840	—	1,503,249	171,230	42,408	104,376	31,920	2,209,023

Imports.

The value of the imports was $2,704,248. This is an increase of $27,525 over that of the previous year's, and is the high water mark in the value of imports in the history of the Colony. The quantity of coin and bullion imported amounted to $28,443. In 1908 it was $32,169.

The imports from the United Kingdom declined from $690,454 in 1908 to $551,840—a drop of $138,614. But in 1908 there were large importations of railway plant from the United Kingdom valued at $120,000, which made that year's importations unusually large. The railway plant imported last year amounted to $17,000 in value.

The imports from the British Colonies increased from $6,530 in 1908 to $15,133 in 1909. This is not so much a real increase in the imports from the Colonies as it is that some items now described as coming from the Colonies were formerly described as coming from the United Kingdom, although they only passed through the United Kingdom.

The imports from "other countries" amounted to $2,137,275, an increase over the imports for 1908 of $157,536.

The growth in value of the imports from Mexico and Guatemala is due to the increased imports of chicle and mahogany from these countries. Over 83 per cent. of our imports from Guatemala were chicle.

The percentages of imports from various countries last year as compared with what it was in 1899 is as follows:—

	1899.	1909.
United Kingdom	31·36	20·41
British Colonies	·45	·56
United States	59·64	41·97
Other Countries	8·55	37·06

Although the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom to the total imports is not so large as it was in 1899, this does not mean that the imports from the United Kingdom have fallen off. As a matter of fact they have increased over 58 per cent. In 1899 they were valued at $323,493 and last year at $551,840. The total imports have increased over 2½ times—due, mainly, to the imports of mahogany and chicle from Mexico and Guatemala, and this has made the percentage of imports from "other countries" for 1909 much greater than it was in 1899, and consequently reduced the percentage from the United Kingdom. So also with the United States—the percentage has decreased 17·67 while the value of the imports has increased by over half a million dollars.

The principal items of import and the countries from which they come are:—

	$
Aerated Waters:	
United Kingdom	3,335
United States	951
France	1,360
Animals (cattle):	
Honduras	38,549
Guatemala	1,586
Animals (horses and mules):	
Honduras	2,122
Guatemala	5,975
Bacon and Hams:	
United States	31,581
Beef and Pork:	
United States	84,729
Beer and Porter:	
United Kingdom	7,202
United States	9,203
Books and Stationery:	
United Kingdom	5,639
United States	6,434
Boots and Shoes:	
United Kingdom	4,878
United States	92,987
Bullion and Coin:	
United States	25,000
Honduras	2,654

	$
Butter:	
United Kingdom	4,402
United States	19,068
France	4,425
Candles (except tallow):	
United Kingdom	1,323
United States	3,751
Cheese:	
United Kingdom	2,767
United States	11,686
Holland	3,162
Chicle (sapodilla gum):	
Mexico	368,087
Guatemala	73,163
Cigars:	
Mexico	3,185
Jamaica	533
Cigarettes:	
United Kingdom	900
United States	4,852
Coal and Coke:	
United States	5,212
Coffee:	
United States	5,785
Honduras	3,287
Clothing and Cotton Goods:	
United Kingdom	173,335
United States	150,715
Germany	7,925
Drugs and Chemicals:	
United Kingdom	3,775
United States	28,427
Earthen and Glassware:	
United Kingdom	3,357
United States	2,511
Germany	2,526
Flour:	
United States	116,631
Furniture:	
United Kingdom	1,400
United States	9,638
Fish (dry):	
United States	4,890
Canada	1,388
Fruit and Vegetables (fresh):	
United States	10,871
Guns and Rifles:	
United Kingdom	1,176
United States	5,362
Hardware and Cutlery:	
United Kingdom	20,918
United States	39,343
Germany	2,176

	$
Iron Roofing:	
United Kingdom	13,714
Lard:	
United States	23,843
Lumber:	
United States	34,452
Machinery:	
United Kingdom	2,545
United States	29,075
Matches:	
United States	4,768
Mahogany:	
Mexico	370,475
Oil (fuel for launches):	
United States	16,916
Oil (other than mineral):	
United Kingdom	3,878
United States	4,222
Oil, mineral, of 130 flash test and over:	
United States	25,586
Paints:	
United Kingdom	8,135
United States	2,592
Perfumery:	
United Kingdom	4,127
United States	4,702
Provisions (canned meats, fruits, and vegetables):	
United Kingdom	76,601
United States	126,231
Austria	4,018
Germany	3,151
Rice:	
United Kingdom	31,545
India	4,436
Rope and Twine:	
United Kingdom	7,288
United States	11,001
Saddlery:	
United Kingdom	2,409
United States	1,134
Salt:	
United Kingdom	3,230
Sewing Machines:	
United States	5,375
Ship Chandlery:	
United States	2,076
Shot and Ammunition:	
United States	8,054
Silk Goods:	
United Kingdom	5,788
China	3,464
Soap:	
United Kingdom	38,160
United States	5,693

	$
Spirits (brandy):	
France	5,113
Spirits (whisky):	
United Kingdom	7,158
United States	5,125
Canada	4,123
Sugar (refined):	
United States	9,483
United Kingdom	1,270
Sugar (unrefined):	
United States	3,322
Tanks and Vats:	
United States	8,200
Tea:	
United Kingdom	8,363
Tobacco (leaf):	
United States	12,030
Vessels and Boats:	
United States	2,543
Woollen Goods:	
United Kingdom	21,019
Wines (still):	
United Kingdom	7,275
Germany	3,849
France	2,986
Spain	1,276

The principal increases and decreases on the previous year's imports occur in the following items:—

Beef and Pork—an increase of $9,000.

Boots and Shoes—a decrease of $14,000.

Hardware and Cutlery from the United Kingdom decreased $4,676.

Canned provisions from the United Kingdom decreased $2,355 and from the United States increased $3,566.

Soap from the United Kingdom increased $6,942.

Woollen Goods increased $6,372.

The importation of Beer and Porter has decreased $4,314.

There was a very notable decrease in the importation of Cigarettes from the United Kingdom—from $2,084 to $900 although the total value of cigarettes imported remained much the same as in 1908. The quantity imported from the United States increased considerably. The quantity of Lumber (rough) imported increased by 219,644 feet. This all came from the United States.

The quantity of brandy imported was 468 gallons less than in 1908.

Whisky is practically our only import from Canada, and that increased from $3,787 in 1908 to $4,123 in 1909. We get a little dried fish from Canada, the value of which amounted to $1,388 last year.

The quantity of refined sugar imported for local consumption increased by 82,775 lbs., and of unrefined sugar by 60,037 lbs.

Tea also increased in quantity by 3,749 lbs.

The importation of leaf tobacco for home consumption increased from 89,919 lbs. to 101,542 lbs., while other kinds decreased from 2,131 lbs. to 1,461 lbs.

The importation of wines remained much the same.

The value of agricultural implements imported decreased very much—from $1,046 to $495.

While there were fewer horses and mules imported, their value was greater than in 1908.

The value of foreign chicle imported increased from $176,961 in 1908 to $441,250 last year, or nearly two and a-half times.

The classes under which increases in the value of imports occurred as compared with 1908 are:—

	$	$	$
Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.			
1908	832,318		
1909	847,973		
Increase		15,655	
Class II. Raw Materials—			
1908	646,374		
1909	864,197		
Increase		217,823	
Class III. Manufactured Materials—			
1. Textile.			
1908	402,283		
1909	415,441		
Increase		13,158	
4. Metal.			
1908	149,087		
1909	154,171		
Increase		5,084	
Total increase			251,720
Less decreases under:—			
Class III. Manufactured Materials—			
3. Other.			
1908	614,492		
1909	394,023		
Decrease		220,469	
Class IV. Coin, Bullion and Specie—			
1908	32,169		
1909	28,443		
Decrease		3,726	
Total decrease			224,195
Net increase			27,525

The Customs import duties amounted to $206,164.16, as compared with $196,361.50 in 1908.

Exports.

The total value of the exports for the year was $2,209,023. Of this amount $1,096,476 represents the value of the produce of the Colony, the balance being coins and bullion and the produce and manufacture of other countries.

Up to 1904 the value of exports has, except in one or two years, exceeded that of imports. In 1905 the imports exceeded the exports by $41,310, and since then the excess, each year, has been gradually increasing. In 1906 it was $181,435; in 1907, $204,587; in 1908, $474,924; in 1909, $495,225. In 1908 the excess was to some extent due to the importation of about $120,000 worth of railway plant. Last year it was due in some measure to importations for the railway, but chiefly due to the loss of export trade to the Republic of Honduras, which was stopped for about eight months owing to the action of the Honduranean Government in prohibiting the importation of goods in foreign vessels of less than 100 tons burden. This restriction has now been removed, but it had the effect of reducing our exports while it lasted. In accounting for the excess of imports over exports it should be borne in mind that there is a considerable export trade through the Cayo to Peten, as to which we have no statistics.

The following table shows the value of the exports of home and foreign produce to the United Kingdom and other countries:—

	United Kingdom.	Other Countries.	Total.
	$	$	$
Home produce—	319,018	777,458	1,096,476
Foreign produce—	36,822	1,075,725	1,112,547
			2,209,023

The exports were distributed under the following heads:—

	$
British Honduras produce	1,096,476
Imports re-exported	1,081,844
Bullion and coin	30,703
Total	2,209,023

Of the total exports the United Kingdom took $355,840 or 16·11 per cent., the United States $1,503,249 or 68·05 per cent., Honduras $104,376 or 4·73 per cent., Mexico $171,230 or 7·75 per cent., and other countries $74,328 or 3·36 per cent.

There were no exports to British Colonies.

The United Kingdon and United States took practically all the exports—the quantity each took of the principal items being:—

	United Kingdom.	United States.
Mahogany (feet) ...	4,172,837	6,501,044
Cedar (feet)	272,994	663,714
Logwood (tons) ...	3,786	668
Bananas (bunches) ...	—	390,350
Plantains (number) ...	—	2,238,500
Cocoanuts (number) ...	—	5,545,679
Chicle (lbs.)	—	2,213,450
Sarsaparilla (lbs.) ...	—	1,115
Rubber (lbs.)	661	16,502
Tortoise shell (lbs.) ...	3,484	—

The export of mahogany was up to the average of the years 1905-1907, but less than that of 1908. This export is largely dependent upon the annual rainfall. It is only when the rivers are in flood that mahogany can be brought down for shipment. Of the total number of feet shipped—10,673,881—only 6,860,549 or 64 per cent. was the produce of the Colony.

The export of cedar increased considerably in the last two years. Of the total export 54 per cent. was native wood.

The number of bunches of bananas shipped decreased 81,250 last year, while the number of plantains shipped went up from 939,000 in 1908 to 2,238,500 last year. There is an increasing demand for plantains in the United States. This is a good sign, as planters prefer to grow them to bananas—plantains being much hardier and less likely to be rejected at the ship's side. The number of cocoanuts shipped last year was higher than it has ever been before, exceeding the figures for 1906, which were the next highest by 17,694.

On the other hand, the quantity of rubber shipped was the lowest on record since 1897.

The quantity of chicle exported was 422,585 lbs. in excess of what it was in 1908. Of the total amount 742,954 lbs., or a little over 33 per cent., was local produce.

The exports of sarsaparilla decreased in 1908 and 1909, while that of tortoise shell improved slightly.

As regards logwood, France took 1,380 tons and Germany 300 tons.

The increase and decrease of exports under classes compared with 1908 are as under:—

—	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
Class I.—Live Animals and Food, &c.:	$	$	$
1908	221,404	180,428	401,832
1909	217,434	124,935	342,369
Decrease	3,970	55,493	59,463
Class II.—Raw Materials:			
1908	944,231	560,944	1,505,175
1909	877,872	799,811	1,677,683
Decrease	66,359	—	—
Increase	—	238,867	172,508
Class III.—Manufactured Materials:			
1908	1,050	267,602	268,652
1909	1,170	157,098	158,268
Increase	120	—	—
Decrease	—	110,504	110,384
Class IV.—Bullion and Coin:			
1908	—	26,140	26,140
1909	—	30,703	30,703
Increase	—	4,563	4,563

The amount and value of the principal exports during the five years 1905-1909 are as follows:—

—	1905.		1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany ...	9,957,826	549,099	11,037,480	584,598	9,569,566	536,711	14,398,422	782,522	10,673,881	693,295
Cedar	415,738	21,239	697,055	35,659	406,334	22,096	736,639	38,094	936,708	65,564
Logwood ...	Tons. 9,572	184,229	Tons. 9,335	174,466	Tons. 6,663	128,252	Tons. 5,774	110,046	Tons. 6,134	113,606
Bananas ...	Bchs. 554,700	142,925	Bchs. 725,000	181,250	Bchs. 652,930	159,549	Bchs. 471,600	112,294	Bchs. 390,350	89,010
Plantains ...	Nos. 1,665,000	11,806	Nos. 1,817,175	12,731	Nos. 849,550	6,012	Nos. 939,000	7,125	Nos. 2,238,500	16,855
Cocoanuts ...	4,929,700	74,804	5,527,985	83,077	4,550,175	80,171	5,072,150	83,068	5,545,679	91,171
Rubber	Lbs. 22,926	15,921	Lbs. 22,108	18,362	Lbs. 24,968	18,957	Lbs. 27,862	18,054	Lbs. 18,962	14,857
Chicle	1,523,663	299,009	1,517,898	320,975	1,689,118	476,629	1,790,865	521,958	2,213,450	757,693
Sarsaparilla ...	3,173	592	3,066	328	2,246	671	1,189	348	1,115	334
Tortoise Shell ...	2,778	14,115	3,783	26,008	2,987	20,771	2,491	12,022	3,484	17,560

The Revenue from the export duty of 75 cents per 1,000 feet on mahogany was $8,272.57, and from the duty on logwood, $455.46. The duty on logwood was reduced on 1st April from 25 cents, to one cent, a ton.

The export duty on chicle produced $7,666.41. It was not until March, 1909 that the duty of half a cent a pound was imposed. The total trade was $5,113,271, the largest on record. The percentage of trade with the United Kingdom to the total trade last year was ... ... 16·77
with the United States it was ... ... 55·52
with other countries it was ... ... 27·71

The fruit trade was valued at $199,289.

Excise.

The same stills were in operation during 1909 as in 1908, namely:—

In the Corosal District:—	
San Roque, San Pedro, San Maximo, Aventura, San Francisco, San Juan (Saltillo), and Santa Anna	7
In the Orange Walk District:—	
Louisiana Farm and San Lorenzo	2
In the Toledo District:—	
Eldridge	1
Total	10

No stills in the Cayo worked.

The revenue from excise duty amounted to $55,122.21, as against $47,731 in 1908, showing an increase of $7,391.21.

The rate of duty was $1.25 a proof gallon.

The output for the years 1905-9 was as under:—

Year.	No. of Stills.	Rum Made.	Duty Collected.
		Gallons.	$
1905	11	40,168	43,394
1906	10	43,975	48,196
1907	11	57,826	51,707
1908	10	57,964	47,731
1909	10	62,708	55,122

The transactions in rum in the various districts for the year were:—

District.	Output in proof gallons.	Sold locally proof gallons.	Ware-housed in District.	Ware-housed in Belize.
Corosal	45,030	1,696	15,460	26,398
Orange Walk ...	13,298	305	12,770	Nil.
Toledo	4,380	Nil.	1,187	2,159
Total ...	62,708	2,001	29,417	28,557

The quantity exported was 2,672 gallons, of which 2,652 gallons were the produce of the Colony. The countries to which this rum was sent were the Republics of Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico.

During the year the work of fitting the distilleries with locks, receivers, and safes, in accordance with the requirements of the Spirits Ordinance, 1907, was begun. They are now nearly all completed, and next season's distillations will be carried out under the locked-still system.

Agricultural Industries.

The export of cacao for the last five years will be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Export. Lbs.
1905	18,988
1906	42,800
1907	46,435
1908	29,174
1909	39,868

Fifty sugar mills were in operation, of which fourteen were worked by steam, two by oil engines, and the rest by cattle. The amount produced was (with the exception of some 36 tons exported to Mexico and Honduras) consumed in the Colony.

Three sawmills were in operation—one at Mullins River (in the Stann Creek District), one at Temash River (in the Toledo District), and one at Duck Run on the Belize River (in the Cayo District).

The sponge fishery yielded 4,322 lbs., and the export of tortoise shell amounted to 3,484 lbs.

Shipping.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared, respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1905	464	11,728	270	234,163
1906	712	12,410	276	218,837
1907	720	14,901	305	242,568
1908	566	14,838	288	239,940
1909	421	11,848	329	338,669

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1905	520	11,621	283	238,953
1906	705	13,191	281	211,487
1907	715	14,831	306	245,572
1908	576	14,988	290	237,677
1909	420	11,420	331	335,387

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1905	263	6,629	61	1,826	139	2,823
1906	359	3,649	35	1,629	318	3,132
1907	567	10,850	27	1 838	126	2,213
1908	395	8,810	59	3,107	112	2,921
1909	292	7,666	53	2,953	76	1,229

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1905	284	7,276	50	1,689	186	2,656
1906	354	7,951	35	1,677	316	3,563
1907	551	10,443	30	2,047	134	2,341
1908	401	8,815	64	3,266	111	2,907
1909	289	7,402	58	2,894	73	1,124

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1905 ...	125	162,016	41	4,330	98	59,641	6	8,176
1906 ...	124	158,146	62	1,669	76	49,936	14	9,086
1907 ...	89	110,250	61	3,106	120	97,451	35	31,761
1908 ...	47	79,856	55	2,762	141	112,259	45	45,063
1909 ...	70	192,320	72	2,311	181	141,093	6	2,945

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1905 ...	124	166,155	45	1,615	105	64,047	9	7,136
1906 ...	119	150,388	73	2,057	76	50,106	13	8,936
1907 ...	92	117,424	61	1,558	114	92,353	39	34,237
1908 ...	48	79,932	60	2,958	138	109,748	44	45,039
1909 ...	72	189,930	72	2.369	181	140,143	6	2,945

The total tonnage that entered and cleared at all the various ports in the Colony for the year was:—

	Tons.
Sailing vessels	23,268
Steam vessels	674,056
Total	697,324

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-one Ordinances were passed, of which the following are the most important:—

III. To provide for the imposition of an export duty on chicle.

IV. The General Loan and Inscribed Stock Ordinance.

V. The Stann Creek Railway Loan Ordinance.

XII. To provide for the gradual adoption of non-inflammable roofs on buildings in Stann Creek Town.

XVI. To establish a Public Officer's Guarantee Fund.

XX. The Death Sentence (Children's) Abolition Ordinance.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as President, the Members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1909 was $18,052.81, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	15,054.39
Grants on account of pupil teachers... ...	1,256.76
Grants in aid of new buildings	333.16
Needlework grants	189.00
Bonuses on examination results	1,219.50
	$18,052.81

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $31,256.58. Of this sum the Government contributed $19,544.05, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	18,052.81
Expenses of administration	1,491.24

The cost per head on the total average attendance (3,187) was $9.80. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the two preceding years:—

—	1907.	1908.	1909.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government...	5·89	5·61	6·13
School Fees	·93	·87	·87
Voluntary Contributions	3·12	2·74	2·80
Totals	9·94	9·22	9·80

The average attendances during 1907, 1908, and 1909 were 3,043, 3,130, and 3,187 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 41. There were 42 in 1908 and 40 in 1907.

The total number of pupils on the roll was 4,447, as compared with 4,385 in 1908 and 4,277 in 1907.

There were also in operation four unaided primary schools with about 82 in average daily attendance.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table:—

Schools: Denomination.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Receipt of School Fees per unit of average attendance.		
	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1907.	1908.	1909.
				$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England.	535	541	601	745·92	671·46	744·91	1·39	1·24	1·24
Roman Catholic	1,421	1,448	1,444	990·55	939·49	932·37	·70	·65	·64
Wesleyan ...	734	800	809	735·62	769·90	762·80	1·00	·96	·94
Baptist... ...	195	208	197	181·47	186·85	188·75	·93	·89	·96
Non-denominational.	158	133	136	172·30	148·85	155·30	1·09	1·12	1·14
Total ...	3,043	3,130	3,187	2,825·86	2,716·55	2,784·13	·93	·87	·87

The smallest proportion of fees is received by the Roman Catholic schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

The sum of $507.65 was expended on account of the Cambridge University Local Examinations held in December, 1908, at which six candidates passed the Preliminary and four the Junior Examinations. In 1909 32 candidates presented themselves, of whom two passed the Preliminary and three the Junior Examinations.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor-House.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during 1909:—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1909.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died	Remained at end of 1909.	Daily average.
Belize Hospital ...	38	591	—	72	—	42·87
Corozal Hospital ...	6	105	87	14	10	6·5
Orange Walk Hospital	—	122	112	6	4	5·5
Belize:						
Lunatic Asylum ...	55	8	1	2	60	55·29
Poor-House ...	36	4	—	7	33	30·59

Owing to the destruction of the Colonial Surgeon's office at Belize by fire the records for the Belize institutions are incomplete.

Savings Banks.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors was 683. Deposits amounted to $31,890.37, and withdrawals to $24,637.15. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1909 was $75,339.53.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $67,663.75.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The authorised strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, and 105 non-commissioned officers and men. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine. Owing to the development of the Colony, it will be necessary to somewhat increase the establishment.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison from 1905 to 1909:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1905	299	54·32
1906	420	54·24
1907	304	60·35
1908	342	61·30
1909	297	66·01

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prison they are employed in tailoring, printing, bookbinding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ship fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 83 punishments. There were two cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There was one death from phthisis. There was one execution.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1909 was 1,081 or 508 less than in 1908. The number of persons summarily convicted was 741 or 347 less than in 1908.

Informations were filed against 73 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 58 cases, and for the prisoner in eight. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in seven cases.

There were two convictions for murder and two for manslaughter. 21 convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, and 29 for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 44,156, consisting of 22,492 males and 21,664 females.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past 10 years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Year.	Diseases.									
	Malarial Fever.	Dysentery.	Small-pox.	Yellow Fever.	Measles.	Phthisis, Pulmonary.	Nervous Diseases.	Circulatory Diseases.	Respiratory Diseases.	Intestinal Diseases.
1900...	8·6	1·1	—	—	—	1·0	3·3	·7	1·7	1·6
1901...	9·4	1·5	—	—	—	·9	2·8	·9	1·7	1·9
1902...	8·8	1·3	—	—	—	·9	1·5	1·0	1·9	2·1
1903...	8·6	1·0	—	—	—	1·3	2·7	·4	1·6	1·7
1904...	8·1	·9	—	—	—	1·2	2·1	·5	1·4	2·1
1905...	9·3	1·3	—	·173	—	1·3	1·9	·6	2·0	2·8
1906...	9·6	·9	—	—	—	1·6	1·9	·4	4·7	2·0
1907...	7·0	·7	—	—	—	1·5	2·6	2·7	1·3	3·1
1908...	6·1	·8	—	—	—	1·2	·2	·9	1·1	3·1
1909...	7·1	1·0	·068	—	—	1·1	1·8	·7	1·5	2·8

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1904-1908, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1909:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1904-1908.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1909.
Indian	97·90	78·9
Carib	54·15	44·5
Negro	61·13	52
Other races	75·51	56·3

The birth rate was 37, and the mortality 21·8 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 680 out of a total of 1,634.

Four hundred and twelve marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·33 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1905	1,403	34·7	423	1,331	32·9
1906	1,349	32·9	385	1,228	29·9
1907	1,553	36·6	456	941	22·1
1908	1,590	36·7	406	1,010	23·3
1909	1,634	37·0	412	964	21·8

During 1909 the number of male and female births was the same, viz., 817 each.

The average rainfall for the ten years 1900-1909 in Belize was 86·29 inches; the maximum—114·21 inches—being in 1900, and the minimum—64·49 inches—in 1909. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell.

Comparative return.

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1900	114·12	160
1901	83·6	116
1902	65·89	107
1903	70·90	118
1904	87·	119
1905	106·42	109
1906	99·32	102
1907	91·17	80
1908	80 ?	80 ?
1909	64·49	91

Summary of Meteorological Observations for the Year 1909.

Months.	Barometer Corrected.		Relative Humidity.		Shade Temperature.		Terrestrial Radiation.		Rain.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	No. of days.	Inches.
					°	°				
January ...	30.216	29.856	94	82	80	60	—	—	6	5.75
February ...	30.156	29.876	97	84	90	64	—	—	—	—
March ...	30.389	29.717	91	65	92	73	—	—	—	—
April ...	30.882	28.864	94	67	90	72	—	—	4	7.
May ...	30.105	28.780	94	67	92	76	—	—	—	—
June ...	30.204	29.968	94	68	92	76	—	—	8	6.3
July ...	30.270	29.972	85	74	89	78		—	4	3.6
August ...	30.505	28.857	94	72	96	75	—	—	17	8.24
September	30.892	28.692	94	68	97	71	—	—	8	5.95
October ...	30.251	29.656	97	72	95	73	—	—	15	18.05
November	30.272	29.835	97	74	94	70	—	—	19	5.5
December...	30.318	29.784	94	67	93	65	—	—	10	4.105
Year ...	30.371	29.488	94	72	92	71	—	—	91	64.495

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $12,014.18, as compared with $14,234.82 in 1908. The decrease is due to fewer purchases having been made by stamp collectors.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $12,571.72, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,000, making a total expenditure of $24,571.72. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $4,161.86.

The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1905-1909 were as follows:—

—	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Ordinary letters	157,265	157,790	179,084	188,603	307,378
Registered letters	8,015	8,996	9,778	9,725	16,909
Postcards	18 585	17,763	24,638	24,547	27,579
Newspapers, books, &c. ...	103,160	103,679	112,180	114,817	168,651
Postal parcels	4,204	4,978	5,234	7,618	8,500

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Letters	64,798	66,001	82,997	104,263	106,545
Registered articles	2,578	2,563	3,793	4,416	6,364
Postcards	1,547	1,398	1,485	1,940	2,019
Newspapers, books, and parcels	9,789	13,189	11,285	15,799	—
Newspapers and books ...	—	—	—	—	16,192
Parcels	—	—	—	—	959

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1906, 1907, 1908, and 1909:—

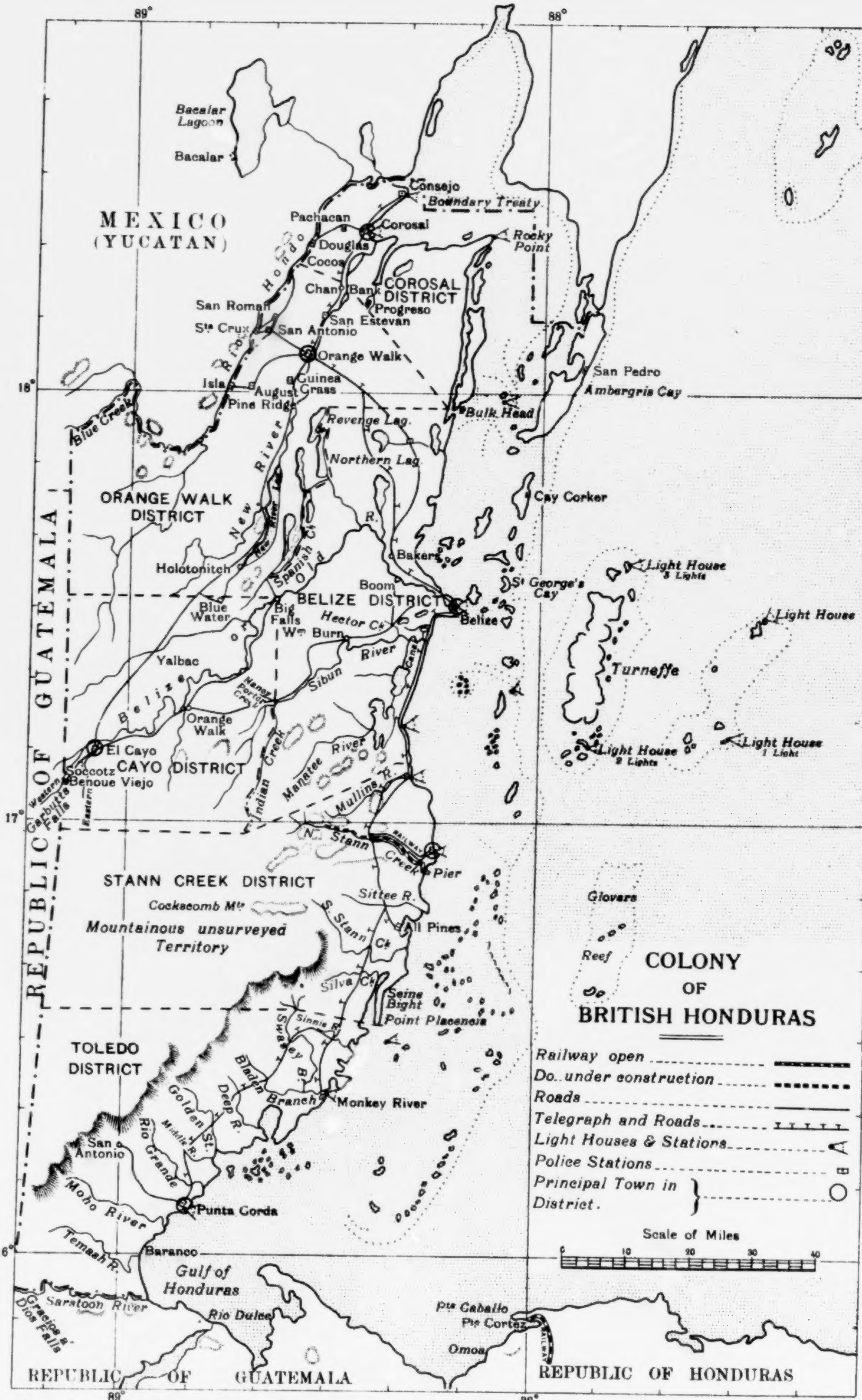
Year.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1906	14,887	10,195	25,082
1907	19,023	12,089	31,112
1908	11,848	16,036	27,884
1909	10,087	16,595	26,682

The working expenses of the system amounted to $16,319.15, and the receipts to $6,372.57.

Telegrams for the United States and Mexico are sent by boat from Consejo in this Colony to Payo Obispo, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

In 1909 the Colony did not enjoy immunity from quarantinable disease. An immigrant who had contracted small-pox in Guatemala developed it in Stann Creek. Unfortunately, the vaccine on hand and the first fresh supply were inactive, and the outbreak was not suppressed until there had been eight cases and three deaths. The disease never spread, however, beyond known contacts, all of whom were kept under supervision.


COLONY
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
Railway open
Do. under construction
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District.
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°
MEXICO
(YUCATAN)
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Rio Hondo
Rocky Point
Chan Bank
COROSAL DISTRICT
Progreso
San Roman
San Estevan
St. Crux
San Antonio
Orange Walk
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Isla
August Pine Ridge
Guinea Grass
Bulk Head
Blue Creek
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
New River
New River Lag.
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
Cay Corker
Holotonitch
Spanish Ck.
Old R.
Bakers
Light House 3 Lights
St. George's Cay
Boom
BELIZE DISTRICT
Belize
Light House
Blue Water
Big Falls
Hector Ck.
Wm. Burn
Sibun River
Canal
Turneffe
Yalbac
Belize R.
Manatee Lagoon
Orange Walk
El Cayo
CAYO DISTRICT
Soccotz
Benque Viejo
Indian Creek
Manatee River
Light House 2 Lights
Light House 1 Light
Western
Eastern
Garbutt's Falls
Mullins R.
N. Stann Creek
Railway
Pier
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Sittee R.
Glovers Reef
Cockscomb Mts.
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
S. Stann Ck.
All Pines
Silva Ck.
Seine Bight
Point Placencia
Sinnie R.
Swasey B.
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bladen Branch
Golden St.
Deep R.
Monkey River
Middle R.
Rio Grande
San Antonio
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
Gracias a Dios Falls
Rio Dulce
Pto. Caballo
Pto. Cortez
Railway
Omoa

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept. 1909.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1910.

andronicus publ

The year was one of less than average rainfall, and some districts suffered to some extent from drought. In Belize the rain was so distributed that the supply of water for household purposes was always sufficient. The numerous light rains had an effect on the sanitary condition of the town, which is worthy of attention. Very heavy rains flush out mosquito larvæ. Light rains do not, and if they are sufficiently frequent the drains hold in places just sufficient water to allow mosquitoes to breed. For a little time there was a re-appearance of stegomyia in part of the town. These still continued after defective vats had been set right. At last the Colonial Surgeon found the larvæ in a small drain. Oiling and sweeping out set matters right.

The rate of progress on the Stann Creek Railway was slower than had been anticipated; but in April 15 miles were declared open for traffic, and the fruit steamers started calling every week. Steamers also call on their way from New Orleans. The passenger traffic has been more than was expected, and the business done has increased at a satisfactory rate. The agreement with the United Fruit Company to purchase and cultivate a tract of some seven thousand acres was concluded.

A serious fire occurred in Belize in the month of May, resulting in the total destruction of three private buildings and of a Government building comprising the District Court, Post and Telegraphs Departments, and the Education Department. It may be noted that all the buildings destroyed were built of brick. A Commission of Enquiry was appointed which was unable to ascertain the cause of the fire, and reported that the manual engines and appliances with which the Fire Brigade were supplied were quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the town. Since then, two steam fire engines, by Messrs. Shand and Mason, have been obtained, which, during a later period than that under review, have rendered inestimable service to the town.

The United Fruit Company commenced in August the experiment of making their 5,000-ton steamers, which trade between New Orleans and Bocas del Toro, call at Belize, so that not only was a very excellent passenger service provided, but mails were received and despatched twice a week. Unfortunately, the new business resulting has not been sufficient to ensure the permanency of the new service.

The direct monthly steamer from New York has also ceased calling at Belize. As there is a weekly service from New York with transhipment at New Orleans, merchants preferred to make use of that, when it resulted in quicker delivery than would take place if cargo waited for the monthly steamer. The discontinuance of these two lines of steamers does not indicate any falling off in trade.

The steamers of the "Harrison" Line, from Liverpool, made eleven calls during the year; and seven steamers of the "Scrutton" Line left for Havre and London with timber.

WILFRED COLLET,
Colonial Secretary.

16th November, 1910.

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COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
630	Southern Nigeria	1908
631	British Honduras	"
632	British Guiana	1908-1909
633	Northern Nigeria	"
634	Basutoland	"
635	East Africa Protectorate	"
636	Uganda	"
637	Weihaiwei	1909
638	St. Helena	"
639	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
640	Ashanti	"
641	Gambia	"
642	Malta	1909-1910
643	Seychelles	1909
644	Colonial Survey Committee	1909-1910
645	Falkland Islands	"
646	Turks and Caicos Islands	1909
647	Gibraltar	"
648	Sierra Leone	"
649	Somaliland	1909-1910
650	Bahamas	"
651	Tongan Islands Protectorate	"
652	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
653	Ceylon	1909
654	Gold Coast	"
655	Nyasaland	1909-1910
656	Imperial Institute	1909
657	Fiji	"
658	Grenada	"
659	Hong Kong	"
660	Barbados	1909-1910
661	Swaziland	"
662	Jamaica	"
663	Straits Settlements	1909
664	Trinidad and Tobago	1909-1910
665	Southern Nigeria	1909
666	Mauritius	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
64	Uganda	Botany and Forestry.
65	Do.	Sleeping Sickness.
66	Gold Coast	Forests.
67	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1905-6.
68	Do. do.	Do. do. 1906-7.
69	St. Helena	Fisheries.
70	Colonies	List of Laws relating to Patents, Trade Marks, &c.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey 1906-7 and 1907-8.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No 706.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1910.

(*For Report for* 1909, *see* No. 667.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1912.

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No. 706.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1909, *see* No. 667.)

THE ACTING GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Belize,
22nd December, 1911.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for 1910.

I have, &c.,

WILFRED COLLET,
Administering the Government.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1910.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1910. The other returns are for the calendar year 1910.

On 1st April, 1909, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $336,351.97.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1908-09 and 1909-10, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1908-1909.	Amount collected in the year 1909-1910.
	$	$
1. Customs	205,488.24	234,719.15
2. Light and Wharf Dues ...	9,484.29	8,416.60
3. Internal Taxation	74,586.58	81,102.82
4. Revenues of Government Property	12,103.76	10,387.34
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c. ...	22,272.38	23,001.07
6. Post Office	14,815.50	10,175.58
7. Telegraphs	5,907.85	6,478.56
8. Interest	6,371.98	6,389.81
9. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	479.32	119.54
10. Miscellaneous Receipts ...	1,899.62	1,730.80
10A. Railway Receipts	231.70	10,708.62
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	353,641.22	393,229.89
11. Sale of Crown Lands	7,067.51	1,875.07
12. Casual Revenue	206.07	—
13. Supply of Coin	—	750.00
Total Revenue ...	360,914.80	395,854.96

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Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1908-1909. $	Amount collected in the year 1909-1910. $
Local Revenue:—		
Belize District	36,707.20*	33,148.27†
Corozal District	3,012.30	3,167.78
Orange Walk District	2,428.75	2,461.20
Stann Creek District	2,956.78	3,886.02
Toledo District	2,009.11	1,862.42
Cayo District	1,304.30	1,718.61
Total Local Revenue ...	48,418.44	46,244.30
Grand Total ...	409,333.24	442,099.26

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1908-1909. $	Expenditure, 1909-1910. $
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	11,536.27	17,008.45
2. Pensions	13,444.19	11,386.53
3. Governor	11,496.53	11,453.62
4. Colonial Secretary's Department	8,231.16	9,009.89
4A. Commissioners of Currency ...	60.00	60.00
5. Treasury and Custom House	20,854.10	21,206.27
6. Audit Department	2,706.70	2,756.47
7. Post Office	25,226.59	24,173.54
8. Telegraphs	11,033.06	16,456.31
8A. Post Office and Telegraphs (special)	814.20	872.82
9. Judicial	14,698.75	14,684.38
10. District Commissioners ...	14,356.00	14,874.48
11. Police	37,174.07	41.302.44
12. Volunteer Force	6,842.66	7,983.18
13. Prisons	12,429.91	13,904.93
14. Medical Department ...	33,282.64	37,008.60
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	8,451.20	2,719.17
16. Education	19,729.15	20,044.15
17. Surveyor-General's Department	24,214.16	21,094.98
18, Botanic Station	2,615.46	2,284.92
19. Miscellaneous	7,679.00	10,277.40
20. Lighthouses	4,794.25	5,114.51
21. Public Works Department ...	5,556.43	8,290.44

---

* Including temporary loan from General Revenue of $7,000.

† Not including refund to District Board Balances from Fire Fund of $137.87.

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Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1908-1909. $	Expenditure, 1909-1910. $
22. Public Works Recurrent ...	25,161.27	27,223.93
22A. Railway Department ...	—	25,291.07
23. Public Works Extraordinary	14,108.20	64,123.58
24. Loan Expenditure, Stann Creek Railway	199,482.99	161,361.83
25. Supply of Coin	—	152.37
Total Expenditure ...	535,978.94	592,120.26
Local Expenditure:—		
Belize District	36,623.09	29,912.60
Corozal District	3,051.66	3,325.94
Orange Walk District ...	1,373.16	1,529.90
Stann Creek District... ...	2,760.64	2,786.93
Toledo District	2,465.86	2,047.16
Cayo District	572.05	837.99
Total Local Expenditure	46,846.46	40,440.52
Grand Total ...	582,825.40	632,560.78

The *ad valorem* duty on goods was increased from 10 to 12½ per cent.; and the Excise duty on rum was increased from $1.25 to $1.35 a proof gallon by Ordinance No. 7 of 1910.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1905-06 to 1909-10:—

Year.	General Revenue—Amount. $	General Expenditure—Amount. $
1905-06	332,110	300,351
1906-07	391,861	321,439
1907-08	395,183	516,701
1908-09	360,915	535,979
1909-10	395,855	592,120

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1910, in respect of its assets and liabilities as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1909, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

	1908-09. $	1909-10. $
Assets	582,417.08	690,208.38
Liabilities ...	246,065.11	447,961.71
Excess of Assets	336,351.97	242,246.67

At the end of the calendar year 1910 there was an apparent deficit on General Revenue Account of $301,793.16. General

Revenue had, however, expended a sum of $588,340.91 on the Stann Creek Railway, which is being recouped from a public loan to be raised. Practically, therefore, the surplus on General Revenue was $286,547.75. The surplus funds of the Colony continued to be invested to the amount of $76,156.30, part of the money required for the railway having been advanced by the Crown Agents.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1910:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £9,000 at $4.86)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures, £20,000 at $4.86)	97,200
Total	168,815

The debts were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest on the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1910:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s.*)	25,477.55
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000)	27,180.62
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923, £20,000)	39,515.44
Total Sinking Funds	92,173.61

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $149,500. There is also a bronze cent piece and a nickel bronze five-cents piece, whose issues amount to $2,750 and $1,000, respectively.

Under Ordinance 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $5, $10, $50, and $100.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1910, was $136,364.00, and against the notes issued the Commissioners of Currency held in gold in the Colony $93,568.48, and held investments in England, in accordance with the provisions of the law, amounting to $42,795.52.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1906 to 1910:—

Imports.

—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	587,456	665,009	690,454	551,840	600,889
Colonies	8,309	5,284	6,530	15,133	25,380
United States ...	1,123,681	1,360,917	1,152,114	1,135,145	1,254,480
Germany	34,820	70,535	71,977	41,861	40,163
France	16,126	38,653	25,418	24,386	31,984
Mexico	345,430	191,581	599,184	755,126	670,387
Guatemala	3,939	12,322	34,770	87,825	114,434
Honduras	70,487	61,688	75,160	65,174	55,286
Other Countries ...	10,293	9,734	21,116	27,758	26,214
Total Imports ...	2,200,541	2,415,723	2,676,723	2,704,248	2,819,217

Exports.

—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	576,241	454,102	478,145	355,840	329,490
Colonies	29,800	27,017	—	—	—
United States ...	941,373	1,146,808	1,210,626	1,503,249	1,656,271
Mexico	187,473	221,130	219,457	171,230	228,292
Guatemala	12,691	24,451	26,843	42,408	21,792
Honduras	256,103	334,991	238,322	104,376	70,323
France	11,000	--	21,510	26,220	37,952
Other Countries ...	4,325	2,537	6,896	5,700	260
Total Exports ...	2,019,006	2,211,036	2,201,799	2,209,023	2,344,380

Imports.

The value of the imports was $2,819,217, an increase of $114,969 on the value of last year's imports.

The value of coin and bullion imported was $36,169 as against $28,443 last year and $32,169 in 1908.

Imports from the United Kingdom were valued at $600,889. This was an improvement on last year's imports, which were valued at $551,480.

Imports from the British Colonies were valued at $25,380. These consisted mostly of rice from India and whisky and salted fish from Canada.

Imports from "Other Countries" amounted to $2,192,948, which is $55,673 better than in the previous year.

From this it will be seen that the imports from the United States increased from $1,123,681 in 1906 to $1,254,480 in 1910;

and the imports from the United Kingdom increased from $587,456 to $600,889 in the same period. But while the values of the imports from both countries have increased, their relative percentage to the total value of imports has decreased. For instance, the imports from the United States in 1906 represented 51 per cent. of the total imports; whereas in 1910 they only represented 44 per cent. And the imports from the United Kingdom in 1906 were 26 per cent. of the total imports but only 21 per cent. last year. This relative decrease is due to the increase in imports from Mexico and Guatemala in recent years. The imports from Guatemala alone have increased from $3,939 in 1906 to $114,434 last year. This is made up almost entirely of chicle and mahogany importations.

The principal items of import and the countries from which they came are shown in the following list:—

	$
Aërated Waters:	
United Kingdom..	2,664
United States ...	1,089
France	1,196
Animals (cattle):	
Honduras ...	37,033
Animals (horses and mules):	
United States ...	1,550
Guatemala ...	2,805
Honduras ...	1,795
Animals (turtle):	
Mexico	4,303
Jamaica	1,030
Nicaragua ...	844
Bacon and Hams:	
United States ...	29,162
Beef and Pork:	
United States ...	119,294
Beer and Porter:	
United Kingdom..	8,686
United States ...	6,782
Germany ...	937
Books (printed):	
United Kingdom..	3,392
United States ...	2,003
Books and Stationery:	
United Kingdom..	3.074
United States ...	4,563
Boots and Shoes:	
United Kingdom..	7,374
United States ...	100,583
Butter:	
United Kingdom..	2,208
United States ...	18,019
France	8,673
Candles (other than tallow):	
United Kingdom..	1,130
United States ...	3,570
Cheese:	
United Kingdom..	2,492
United States ...	11,040
Holland	4,121
Chicle (Sapodilla Gum):	
Mexico	349,097
Guatemala ...	92,782
Cigars:	
Mexico	3,134
Jamaica	934
Cigarettes:	
United Kingdom..	2,304
United States ...	3,539
Coal and Coke:	
United Kingdom..	4,235
United States ...	8,960
Coffee (raw):	
United States ...	5,942
Guatemala ...	9,417
Honduras ...	1,544
Cotton and Silk piece-goods:	
United Kingdom..	88,769
United States ...	74,948
France	1,624
Germany ...	1,756
Drugs and Chemicals:	
United Kingdom..	6,117
United States ...	35,986
Earthen and Glass ware:	
United Kingdom..	5,237

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	$
Earthen and Glass ware —*cont.*:	
United States	2,127
Germany	3,450
Fish (dry):	
United States	5,418
Canada	1,148
Flour:	
United States	121,176
Food and Drink Supplies (unenumerated):	
United Kingdom	27,950
United States	79,863
Germany	1,517
Fruit and Vegetables (fresh):	
United States	12,693
Fruit and Vegetables (preserved):	
United Kingdom	4,624
United States	8,527
Furniture:	
United Kingdom	1,686
United States	10,519
Guns and Rifles:	
United Kingdom	1,758
United States	4,127
Haberdashery and Millinery:	
United Kingdom	30,602
United States	6,391
Germany	1,938
France	1,303
Hardware and Cutlery:	
United Kingdom	22,667
United States	44,306
Germany	2,302
Hats and Caps:	
United Kingdom	11,924
United States	8,273
Hay, Oats, and Bran:	
United Kingdom	2,235
United States	10,644
Indian Corn:	
United States	5,566
Iron Roofing:	
United Kingdom	9,926
United States	2,187
Jewellery, Plate, and Watches:	
United Kingdom	2,673
United States	7,746
Lard (and its compounds):	
United States	32,702
Lumber (dressed):	
United States	24,950
Lumber (rough):	
United States	18,285
Machinery:	
United Kingdom	5,785
United States	32,558
Mahogany:	
Mexico	307,330
Manufactured Articles (unenumerated):	
United Kingdom	28,508
United States	58,491
Germany	5,670
Matches:	
United States	4,698
Meat (preserved in tins or bottles):	
United States	23,029
Milk (preserved or condensed):	
United Kingdom	56,617
United States	6,188
Austria	2,509
Germany	4,300
Musical Instruments:	
United States	3,815
Germany	1,073
Oil (fuel for launches):	
United States	11,177
Oil (gasoline):	
United States	6,646
Oils (other than mineral):	
United Kingdom	5,370
United States	4,540
Paints and Varnish:	
United Kingdom	9,850
United States	4,062
Perfumery:	
United Kingdom	5,468
United States	4,925
France	1,969
Germany	1,219
Rice:	
United Kingdom	31,261
India	11,028
Rope and Twine:	
United Kingdom	4,626
United States	10,123

	$
Saddlery and Harness:	
United Kingdom..	4,462
Sewing Machines:	
United States ...	4,753
Shot and Ammunition:	
United Kingdom..	1,250
United States ...	7,298
Soap:	
United Kingdom..	26,062
United States ...	7,823
Spirits (brandy):	
France	6,900
Spirits (whisky):	
United Kingdom..	9,727
United States ...	4,567
Canada	4,319
Sugar (refined):	
United Kingdom..	1,248
United States ...	8,528
Sugar (unrefined):	
United States ...	2,735
Tanks and Vats:	
United States ...	4,944
Tea:	
United Kingdom..	8,261
Tobacco (leaf):	
United States ...	14,349
Trucks (for mahogany works):	
United States ...	15,396
Vessels and Boats:	
United States ...	6,856
Wines (still):	
United Kingdom..	6,638
Germany ...	4,278
France	2,034
Spain	1,839
Woollen Manufactures (piece goods):	
United Kingdom..	29,939

A comparison of some of these items with the same items imported in 1906 is interesting. The value of beef and pork imported has increased from $79,827 in 1906 to $119,294 in 1910, although the number of barrels imported was 652 less in 1910. This shows how much the cost has gone up. The average value of a barrel of pork or beef in 1906 was about $15.00, while in 1910 it was over $25.00. In boots and shoes the value imported in 1906 was $88,823, while in 1910 it was $114,513.

The value of cheese imported increased from $15,979 to $17,946; confectionery from $10,579 to $14,679; flour from $89,418 to $121,176; lard from $16,807 to $32,729; rice from $40,673 to $44,073. The value of the importations of soap has decreased from $36,314 to $33,998. The value of cigars imported has decreased from $5,638 to $4,264, whilst that of cigarettes has increased from $4,610 to $6,833. Dressed lumber has increased from $19,139 to $24,950 and undressed, or rough, lumber has decreased from $22,231 to $18,285. Oils (mineral) increased from $15,527 to $24,708. As regards spirits, the value of brandy imported increased from $2,291 to $7,875, while the quantity consumed locally rose from 790 gallons in 1906 to 1,406 gallons in 1910. The quantity of whisky imported last year was 10,562 gallons, of which 5,694 gallons were consumed locally. In 1906, 5,454 gallons were imported, of which 4,691 gallons were consumed locally. In 1906, 105,700 lbs. of refined sugar were consumed; in 1910 the consumption was 207,634 lbs., or nearly double, while in unrefined sugar 70,634 lbs. were imported in 1910 and only 20,975 lbs. in 1906. In 1906 we imported 124,786 lbs. of leaf tobacco, which was valued at $12,756, and in 1910 we imported 111,623 lbs., valued at $14,349, so that while the quantity was considerably less in 1910, the value was considerably more. In 1910, 9,587 gallons of still wine, valued at $15,549, were consumed. In 1906, 11,948 gallons were consumed, the value of which was $20,363. The value of coconuts imported in 1906 was $1,570; in 1910 it was $8,704. The importations of mahogany increased from $158,612 in value in 1906 to $307,330 in 1910; and fuel oil (including gasoline) for launches from $6,396 to $17,823. Chicle to the value of $103,314 was imported in 1906; and in 1910 the importations were valued at $441,879. It will be noticed in the importations and exportations of chicle that the total value of chicle exported is given as $936,650, and the value of the local product exported as $213,919; so the difference—$722,731—represents the value of the imported chicle when it came to be exported. The increased value is due to the manner of valuation. When chicle comes into the Colony, it is valued at 10 cents a pound, but when it is exported it is valued at 27 cents a pound.

The classes under which increases and decreases in the value of imports occurred as compared with 1909 are:—

	$	$	$
Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.—			
1909	847,973		
1910	925,452		
Increase		77,479	
Class III. Manufactured Materials—			
2. Metal.			
1909	154,171		
1910	185,190		
Increase		31,019	
3. Other.			
1909	394,023		
1910	540,757		
Increase		146,734	
Class IV. Coin, Bullion, and Specie—			
1909	28,443		
1910	36,169		
Increase		7,726	
Total increase ...			262,958
Less decreases under:—			
Class II. Raw Materials—			
1909	864,197		
1910	772,946		
Decrease		91,251	
Class III. Manufactured Materials—			
1. Textiles.			
1909	415,441		
1910	358,703		
Decrease ...		56,738	
Total decrease ...			147,989
Nett increase ...			114,969

The Customs import duties amounted to $237,858.29, as compared with $206,164.16 in 1909, and $196,361.50 in 1908.

Exports.

The total value of the exports was $2,344,380, or $135,357 more than the exports for 1909. Of this amount $1,012,086, or 43 per cent., represents the value of the produce of the Colony, the balance being coin and bullion and the produce and manufacture of other countries.

The following table shows the value of the exports of home and foreign produce to the United Kingdom and other countries:—

	United Kingdom.	Other Countries.	Total.
	$	$	$
Home produce—	291,389	720,697	1,012,086
Foreign produce—	38,101	1,294,193	1,332,294
			2,344,380

The exports were distributed under the following heads:—

	$
British Honduras produce	1,012,086
Imports re-exported	1,316,819
Bullion and coin	15,475
Total	2,344,380

Of the total exports the United Kingdom took $329,490 or 14 per cent., the United States $1,656,271 or 70 per cent., Mexico $228,292 or 10 per cent., Honduras $70,323 or 3 per cent., France $37,952 or 2 per cent., Guatemala $21,792 or less than 1 per cent., and Nicaragua the balance, $260.

Last year the proportion of exports sent to the United Kingdom was 16 per cent., and to the United States 68 per cent., so that our trade to the United States is increasing and to the United Kingdom decreasing.

Fourteen years ago, in 1896, the United Kingdom took over 48 per cent. of our exports and the United States less than 30 per cent.

There was no export trade with the British Colonies in 1910.

The exports of the principal items to the United Kingdom and the United States were:—

	United Kingdom.	United States.
Mahogany (feet) ...	4,131,842	5,937,811
Cedar (feet)	313,591	397,646
Logwood (tons) ...	1,615	391
Bananas (bunches) ...	—	441,181
Plantains (number) ...	—	3,514,101
Coconuts (number) ...	67,484	4,803,837
Chicle (lbs.)	9,986	2,780,904
Sarsaparilla (lbs.) ...	1,766	1,201
Rubber (lbs.)	2,704	14,131
Sponges (lbs.)	—	4,079
Tortoise Shell (lbs.) ...	2,703	—

There were in addition 1,663 tons of logwood sent to France.

Compared with the previous year's exports it will be found that the quantity of mahogany sent to the United Kingdom is about 40,000 feet less, and to the United States about 563,000 feet less; and that the quantity of cedar sent to the United States is less by 266,000 feet.

The exportation of logwood was also slightly less than in the previous year.

50,831 more bunches of bananas were sent to the United States, and the number of plantains exported increased by 1,275,601.

The number of coconuts shipped decreased by 674,358.

The quantity of chicle exported increased by 577,440 lbs. The amount of rubber exported remained much the same as in 1909.

The increases and decreases under classes compared with 1909 are as under:—

—	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
Class I.—Live Animals and Food, &c.:	$	$	$
1909...	217,434	124,935	342,369
1910...	290,092	135,148	425,240
Increase	72,658	10,213	82,871
Class II.—Raw Materials:			
1909...	877,872	799,811	1,677,683
1910...	719,181	1,029,678	1,748,859
Decrease	158,691	—	—
Increase	—	229,867	71,176
Class III.—Manufactured Materials:			
1909...	1,170	157,098	158,268
1910...	2,813	116,824	119,637
Increase	1,643	—	—
Decrease	—	40,274	38,631
Class IV.—Coins and Bullion:			
1909...	—	30,703	30,703
1910...	—	15,475	15,475
Decrease	—	15,228	15,228

The amount and value of the principal exports during the five years 1906-1910 are as follows:—

—	1906.		1907.		1908.		1909.		1910.	
Mahogany ...	Ft. 11,037,480	$ 584,598	Ft. 9,569,566	536,711	Ft. 14,398,422	$ 782,522	Ft. 10,673,881	$ 693,295	Ft. 10,175,571	$ 653,878
Cedar	697,055	35,659	406,334	22,096	736,639	38,094	936,708	65,564	711,237	43,731
Logwood ...	Tons. 9,335	174,466	Tons. 6,663	128,252	Tons. 5,774	110,046	Tons. 6,134	113,606	Tons. 3,669	68,522
Bananas... ...	Bchs. 725,000	181,250	Bchs. 652,930	159,549	Bchs. 471,600	112,294	Bchs. 390,350	89,010	Bchs. 441,181	107,945
Plantains ...	No. 1,817,175	12,731	No. 849,550	6,012	No. 939,000	7,125	No. 2,238,500	16,855	No. 3,514,101	27,962
Coconuts ...	5,527,985	83,077	4,550,175	80,171	5,072,150	83,068	5,545,679	91,171	4,871,321	120,730
Rubber	Lbs. 22,108	18,362	Lbs. 24,968	18,957	Lbs. 27,862	18,054	Lbs. 18,962	14,857	Lbs. 16,835	18,650
Chicle	1,518,898	320,975	1,689,118	476,629	1,790,865	521,958	2,213,450	757,693	2,790,890	936,650
Sarsaparilla ...	3,066	328	2,246	671	1,189	348	1,115	334	2,967	483
Tortoise Shell ...	3,783	26,008	2,987	20,771	2,491	12,022	3,484	17,560	2,703	14,965

The revenue from export duties was:—

	$
Mahogany	8,666.60
Cedar	41.14
Logwood	42.19
Chicle	13,919.63
	22,669.56

The total trade of the Colony was:—

	$
Imports	2,819,217
Exports	2,344,380
Total trade	5,163,597

This exceeds the trade of last year by $50,326.

Excise.

The revenue from excise duty in 1910 amounted to $57,873 as against $55,122 in 1909, showing an increase of $2,751.

The rate of duty was increased from $1.25 to $1.35, a proof gallon by Ordinance No. 7 of 1910.

There were nine stills in operation: seven in the Corozal District, one in the Orange Walk District, and one in the Toledo District. No stills worked in the Cayo District or the Stann Creek District.

The output of rum for the years 1906-10 was as follows:—

Year.	No. of Stills.	Rum made—	Duty Collected.
		Gallons.	$
1906	10	43,975	48,196
1907	11	57,826	51,707
1908	10	57,964	47,731
1909	10	62,708	55,122
1910	9	46,714	57,873

The transactions in rum in the various districts were:—

District.	Output in Proof Gallons.	Sold Locally. Proof Gallons.	Warehoused in District.	Warehoused in Belize.
Corozal	37,481	2,130	7,859	26,714
Orange Walk	6,138	140	5,950	Nil
Toledo...	3,125	Nil	718	2,081
Total	46,714	2,276	14,527	28,795

The quantity exported was 3,826 gallons, as compared with 2,672 gallons exported in 1909. 2,808 gallons were sent to Honduras.

The fitting of the distilleries with locked stills was completed towards the end of the year, and the Spirits Ordinance, 1907, was proclaimed to come into operation on the 31st December, 1910.

Agricultural and Other Industries.

The export of cacao for the last five years will be seen from the following table:—

Year.	Export. lbs.
1906	42,800
1907	46,435
1908	29,174
1909	39,868
1910	32,023

Forty-six sugar mills were in operation, of which eleven were worked by steam, two by oil engines, and the rest by cattle. The amount produced was practically all consumed in the Colony.

Two saw-mills were in operation—one at Mullins River (in the Stann Creek District) and the other at Temash River (in the Toledo District).

The sponge fishery yielded 4,079 lbs., and the export of tortoise shell amounted to 2,703 lbs.

Shipping.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, American, and Norwegian vessels entered and cleared respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1906	464	11,728	270	234,163
1907	712	12,410	276	218,837
1908	566	14,838	288	239,940
1909	421	11,848	329	339,669
1910	459	11,899	437	479,212

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1906	705	13,191	281	211,487
1907	715	14,831	306	245,572
1908	576	14,988	290	237,677
1909	420	11,420	331	335,387
1910	480	12,397	441	475,919

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1906	359	3,649	35	1,629	318	3,132
1907	567	10,850	27	1,838	126	2,213
1908	395	8,810	59	3,107	112	2,921
1909	292	7,666	53	2,953	76	1,229
1910	307	7,608	69	2,858	83	1,433

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1906	354	7,951	35	1,677	316	3,563
1907	551	10,443	30	2,047	134	2,341
1908	401	8,815	64	3,266	111	2,907
1909	289	7,402	58	2,894	73	1,124
1910	327	7,603	69	2,858	83	1,433

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1906 ...	124	158,146	62	1,669	76	49,641	14	9,086
1907 ..	89	110,250	61	3,106	120	97,451	35	31,761
1908 ...	47	79,856	55	2,762	141	112,259	45	45,063
1909 ...	70	192,320	72	2,311	181	141,093	6	2,945
1910 ...	127	324,725	100	2,998	169	109,880	41	41,609

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1906 ...	119	150,388	73	2,057	76	50,106	13	8,936
1907 ...	92	117,424	61	1,558	114	92,353	39	34,237
1908 ...	48	79,932	60	2,958	138	109,748	44	45,039
1909 ...	72	189,930	72	2,369	181	140,143	6	2,945
1910 ...	129	321,991	104	3,071	168	109,196	40	41,661

The total tonnage that entered and cleared at all the various ports in the Colony for the years 1909 and 1910 were:—

—	Sailing Vessels.	Steam Vessels.	Total.
1909	23,268	674,056	697,324
1910	24,296	955,131	979,427

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-six Ordinances were passed. No. 7 raised the ad valorem duty from 10 to 12½ per cent. and the excise duty on spirits from $1.25 to $1.35 a proof gallon.

No. 8 reconstituted the Roads and Rivers Boards and restored to the Government the power of supervising expenditure on public roads when defrayed from public revenue. This power, except in the Belize District, had been transferred to the District Boards.

No. 9 effected some important changes in the Labour Law with a view to reduce the extent to which labourers are in debt to their employers. From the 1st April, 1911, it became illegal to advance more than two months' wages, and from the 1st April, 1912, one and a-half month's wages. Provision is made preventing a labourer from increasing his indebtedness to his employer during the term of his engagement. If a labourer is in debt to his employer he is entitled to receive in cash one-third of the wages earned so that he may be at liberty to purchase what he wants from any vendor he chooses. While the labourer is in debt to his employer at least half of his earnings must be applied to reducing the debt. The employer has to provide the labourer with a pass-book in which every transaction between the employer and labourer must be entered at the time. The law only came into force in 1911.

Ordinance 17 provides for the expulsion in certain circumstances of undesirable aliens.

Ordinance 18 provides for the registration of buyers of agricultural produce. They are compelled to keep records of their transactions. This law is said to have caused a diminution in the number of thefts of produce.

Ordinance 19 placed the control of the fire brigade under the Governor-in-Council. Previously it had been under the dual control of the District Board and the Governor-in-Council. The change was made as a result of the enquiry held into the causes of the big fire of 1909.

Ordinance 22 gives power to the Government Electrical Engineer to enter premises where electric current is supplied, and provides penalties for improper interference with electric installations.

Ordinance 25 gives the Governor-in-Council power to make regulations for the control of the Government Railways, corresponding to the by-laws which are made by English railway companies with the approval of the Board of Trade.

Ordinance 30 deals with the measuring of wood. Persons wishing to become Licensed Measurers have to be examined by the Surveyor-General, with the assistance of two assessors. A scale of maximum fees to be charged is provided.

Ordinance 31 provides that cedar shall pay an export duty as well as mahogany, and that on the export of mahogany and cedar the certificate of a Licensed Measurer shall be produced to the Customs authorities.

Ordinance 35 alters the fees for liquor licence. The fee for an hotel which only sells liquor to its guests is reduced to $50. The fee for an hotel which keeps an open bar is the same as for a general publican's licence. Hotels must provide at least the amount of accommodation prescribed in the Ordinance.

Ordinance 36 requires that no moving picture shows shall take place without the permission of the Governor, who can impose any conditions he may think fit for minimising danger by fire, and for the provision of sufficient exits.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the outdistricts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1910 was $17,749.59, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	15,047.50
Grants on account of pupil teachers ...	1,357.37
Grants in aid of new buildings	250.00
Grants for agriculture	25.00
Needlework grants	229.50
Bonuses on examination results	840.22
	17,749.59

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $33,097.07. Of this sum the Government contributed $19,905.22, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	17,749.59
Expenses of administration	2,155.63

The cost per head on the total average attendance (3,173) was $10.43. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the two preceding years:—

—	1908.	1909.	1910.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government...	5·61	6·13	6·27
School Fees	·87	·87	·90
Voluntary Contributions	2·74	2·80	3·26
Total	9·22	9·80	10·43

The average attendances during 1908, 1909, and 1910 were 3,130, 3,187, and 3,173, respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 44. There were 41 in 1909 and 42 in 1908.

The total number of pupils on the roll was 4,641 as compared with 4,447 in 1909 and 4,385 in 1908.

There were also in operation five unaided primary schools with about 120 in average daily attendance.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table:—

Schools : Denomination.	Average Attendance			Total School Fees.			Receipts of School Fees per unit of average attendance.		
	1908.	1909.	1910.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1908.	1909.	1910.
				$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England.	541	601	640	671·46	744·91	791·01	1·24	1·24	1·24
Roman Catholic.	1,448	1,444	1,406	939·49	932·37	993·97	·65	·64	·71
Wesleyan ...	800	809	775	769·90	762·80	717·60	·96	·94	·93
Baptist ...	208	197	207	186·85	188·75	180·40	·89	·96	·90
Non-denominational.	133	136	145	148·85	155·50	158·55	1·12	1·14	1·09
	3,130	3,187	3,173	2,716·55	2,784·13	2,841·53	·87	·87	·89

The smallest proportion of fees is received by the Roman Catholic Schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

The sum of $499.40 was expended on account of the Cambridge University Local Examinations held in December, 1909, at which two candidates passed the Preliminary and three the Junior Examinations. In 1910 31 candidates presented themselves, of whom twelve passed the Preliminary, one the Junior, and one the Senior Examinations.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor House.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1910:—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1910.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1910.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	51	648	518	90	91	51·60
Corozal Hospital ...	4	125	105	16	8	5·49
Orange Walk Hospital	4	139	125	9	9	5·20
Belize :						
Lunatic Asylum ...	60	13	4	5	64	60·46
Poor-House ...	25	15	4	5	31	29·79

Savings Bank.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1910, was 708. Deposits amounted to $34,091.99, and withdrawals to $30,269.33. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1910 was $79,162.19.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $74,953.75.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The authorised strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, and 102 non-commissioned officers and men—nine short of full strength. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine. Owing to the development of the Colony, it will be necessary to somewhat increase the establishment.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison, from 1906 to 1910: :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1906	420	54·24
1907	304	60·35
1908	342	61·30
1909	297	66·01
1910	323	83·27

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prison they are employed in tailoring, printing, bookbinding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good and there were only 67 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There were two deaths from natural causes. There were three executions.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1910 was 1,220, or 139 more than in 1909. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,034, or 293 more than in 1909.

Informations were filed against 61 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 45 cases and for the prisoner in seven. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in nine cases.

There was one conviction for murder and one for unnatural crime. Twenty-one convictions were obtained for other offences against the person, and 11 for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 45,054, consisting of 22,949 males and 22,105 females.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past 10 years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

Year.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Diseases:										
Malarial Fever	9·4	8·8	8·6	8·1	9·3	9·6	7·0	6·1	7·1	5·1
Dysentery	1·5	1·3	1·0	·9	1·3	·9	·7	·8	1·0	1·0
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	·068	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	—	·173	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary ...	·9	·9	1·3	1·2	1·3	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·3
Nervous Diseases	2·8	1·5	2·7	2·1	1·9	1·9	2·6	·2	1·8	·9
Circulatory Diseases ...	·9	1·0	·4	·5	·6	·4	2·7	·9	·7	1·0
Respiratory Diseases ...	1·7	1·9	1·6	1·4	2·0	4·7	1·8	1·1	1·5	2·5
Intestinal Diseases ...	1·9	2·1	1·7	2·1	2·8	2·0	3·1	3·1	2·8	2·8

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1905-1909, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1910:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1905-1909.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1910.
Indian	98·78	71·57
Carib	52·34	73·00
Negro	59·15	59·23
Other races	74·94	57·82

The birth-rate was 36·95, and the mortality 23·349 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 656 out of a total of 1,665, or over 39 per cent.

Three hundred and eight-five marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 8·55 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1906... ...	1,349	32·9	385	1,228	29·9
1907... ...	1,553	36·6	456	941	22·1
1908.. ...	1,590	36·7	406	1,010	23·3
1909... ...	1,634	37·0	412	964	21·8
1910... ...	1,665	36·9	385	1,052	23·3

During 1910 the excess of female over male births was 47; and of male over female deaths 56.

The average rainfall for the ten years 1901-1910 in Belize was 81·25 inches; the maximum—106·42 inches— being in 1905, and the minimum—64·49 inches—in 1909. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell.

Year.	Comparative return. Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1901	83·60	116
1902	65·89	107
1903	70·90	118
1904	87·00	119
1905	106·42	109
1906	99·32	102
1907	91·17	80
1908	80·00 ?	80 ?
1909	64·49	91
1910	63·76	124

Summary of Meteorological Observations, taken at Belize, for the year 1910.

Months.	Barometer corrected.		Relative humidity.		Shade temperature.		Terrestrial radiation.		Rain.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	No. of days.	Inches.
			°	°	°	°				
January ...	30·318	29·859	97	72	81	61	—	—	14	6·025
February	30·296	29·784	97	67	84	62	—	—	9	2·90
March ...	30·260	29·063	91	79	88	64	—	—	10	7·230
April ...	30·140	29 090	94	67	86	68	—	—	5	1·65
May ...	30·346	29·667	97	72	89	71	—	—	7	12·8
June ...	30·117	29·740	97	68	88	74	—	—	11	4·055
July ...	30·118	29·750	97	66	88	74	—	—	9	6·0
August ...	29·886	29·620	97	61	90	70	—	—	10	5·55
September	29·810	29·537	97	70	91	74	—	—	14	5·80
October ...	30·121	29·557	94	66	90	81	—	—	11	5·45
November	29·962	29·715	97	72	84	68	—	—	10	5·15
December	30·248	29·500	97	71	78	64	—	—	14	1·15
Year ...	30·135	29·573	96	69	86	69	—	—	124	63·760

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $13,383, as compared with $12,014 in 1909, showing an increa of $1,369.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $13,676, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,000, making a total expenditure of $25,676. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $4,072.

The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1906 to 1910 were as follows:—

—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Ordinary Letters	157,790	179,084	188,603	307,378	216,716
Registered Articles	8,996	9,778	9,725	16,909	11,258
Postcards	17,763	24,638	24,547	27,579	22,756
Newspapers, Books, &c. ...	103,679	112,180	114,817	168,651	178,526
Postal Parcels	4,978	5,234	7,618	8,500	10,945

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.
Letters	66,001	82,997	104,263	106,545	99,757
Registered Articles	2,563	3,793	4,416	6,364	4,344
Postcards	1,398	1,485	1,940	2,019	1,446
Newspapers, Books, and Parcels	13,189	11,285	15,799	—	—
Newspapers and Books ...	—	—	—	16,192	13,015
Parcels	—	—	—	959	1,009

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, and 1910:—

Year.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1906	14,887	10,195	25,082
1907	19,023	12,089	31,112
1908	11,848	16,036	27,884
1909	10,087	16,595	26,682
1910	12,850	17,560	30,410

The working expenses of the system amounted to $16,976, and the receipts to $7,641.

Telegrams for the United States and Mexico are sent by boat from Consejo, in this Colony, to Payo Obispo, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican Line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Belize Fire Brigade was in April placed under the sole control of the Governor-in-Council instead of under a kind of joint control of the Governor-in-Council and the District Board, each authority being unable to do anything without the consent of the other.

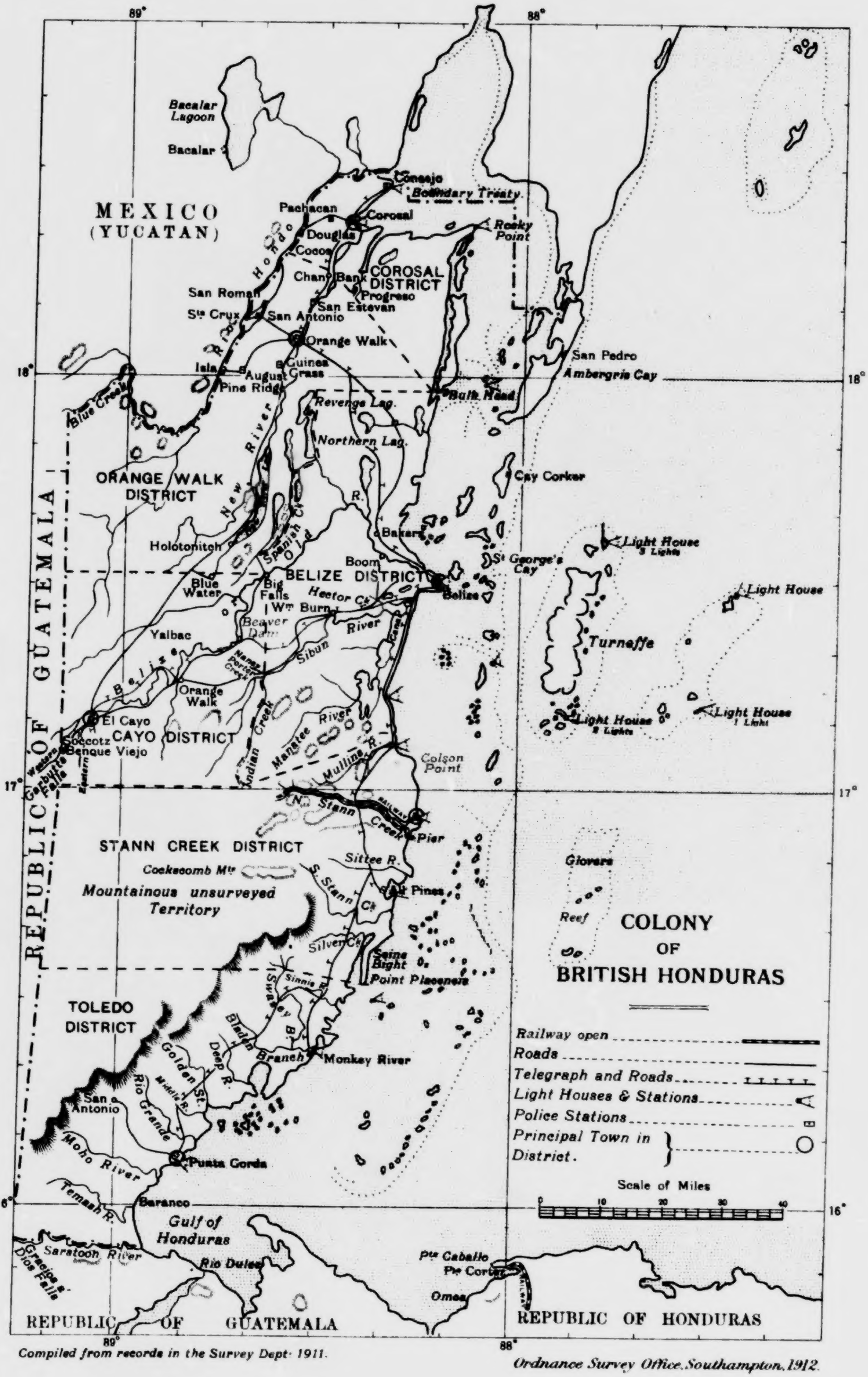
In July, two steam fire-engines, supplied by Messrs. Shand, Mason and Company, were received from England, and materially strengthened the fire-fighting power of the brigade, which hitherto had had to rely on manual engines. Frequent drills with the new engines took place, and fortunately their services were not required until the men had become proficient in the use of them. On October 22nd took place what, for a short time, threatened to be the most disastrous fire that had taken place in Belize. In one sense it was the most disastrous, as it was accompanied by loss of life.

A hall in which a moving picture show was taking place took fire, and the building shortly was in flames. For some reason the flames were bursting out in every part before the alarm was given. The engines arrived on the spot within three minutes. At that time a house adjoining the west end of the hall was in flames, so also were a shop on the other side of the road and a shed on the east side of the hall. In the river two schooners were burning, and the fire actually attacked a kitchen on the other side of the river. Steam was not raised as quickly as had been the case in practices, and for a little while it looked as if nothing would stop the flames. The heat was too intense for the manuals to get near to the burning building. But within five minutes of the steamers beginning to work, it was evident that the fire was under control. The shop referred to above was saved with comparatively little damage done. It was evident that in obtaining the steam fire-engines an immense stride had been made towards securing the town from destruction by fire. It was only after the fire had been quenched, and the members of the brigade were congratulating themselves on the satisfactory work done, that they learned that, before their arrival on the scene, some 17 people had been injured while escaping from the burning hall. Of these, three persons died afterwards from the injuries received.

The work of dredging the Belize bar, by means of a suction dredger supplied by Messrs. Simons and Company, was commenced in March, 1910. At the start there were many interruptions to the work. There was barely enough water to float the dredger, and when it had been able to secure enough water for its own flotation all kinds of obstructions were encountered in the way of mahogany logs, pieces of logwood, old chains, anchors, axe heads, and other things that had been either lost or thrown overboard from vessels using the channel. An eight-foot channel has now been obtained, and we have no longer the sight of a dozen lighters at a time stuck on the bar. The widening of the channel is being continued, and an extent of new land is being reclaimed which will be a valuable asset, and in time pay for the cost of reclamation, and will also, to some extent, relieve the overcrowding in the town.

The year must on the whole be considered a prosperous one. There was a great demand for labour, and wages were high. There has been some recovery in the price of logwood, and if this continues it will be a permanent benefit to the Colony. The rise in the price of mahogany has caused a great deal of activity in the cutting industry, but the increased production cannot continue. The prevalent idea that the mahogany in the Colony is worked out is erroneous, but any unusual production is necessarily followed—sooner or later—by a corresponding diminution. The high rate of wages, and the increase in the price of foodstuffs—which has affected this Colony as well as other parts of the world—have retarded agricultural development; and were it not for the increased facilities for fruit-growing afforded by the Stann Creek Railway, the fruit production of the Colony might dwindle away. Fortunately the prices of fruit have been somewhat raised, so that existing plantations have been maintained, and near the Stann Creek Railway tracts of new land have been opened up.

The Colony suffered during the year from an extensive epidemic of measles, followed by one of whooping-cough. The disease of measles is generally mild in this climate, and the deaths, as compared with the number of cases, were few, and generally due to the after effects. Tuberculosis has increased to a serious extent, and at the time of writing an Anti-Tuberculosis League has been formed, with a view to instruct the people in the manner in which the disease is spread and how to prevent that spread. The increased number of buildings erected within the limited area of the town of Belize, and the consequent increased crowding may have something to


COLONY
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
Railway open
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District.
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°
MEXICO
(YUCATAN)
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Rocky Point
Chan Bank
COROSAL DISTRICT
Progreso
San Estevan
San Roman
Sta Crux
San Antonio
Orange Walk
Rio Hondo
Guinea Grass
Isla
August
Pine Ridge
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bulk Head
Blue Creek
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
New River
Cay Corker
R.
Bakers
Light House
3 Lights
Holotonitch
Spanish Ck
Old
Boom
St George's Cay
BELIZE DISTRICT
Blue Water
Big Falls
Hector Ck
Belize
Light House
Wm Burn
Beaver Dam
River
Yalbac
Turneffe
Belize
Sibun
Orange Walk
El Cayo
CAYO DISTRICT
Succotz
Benque Viejo
Indian Creek
Manatee
River
Light House
2 Lights
Light House
1 Light
Mullins R.
Colson Point
Western
Eastern
Garbutts Falls
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
N. Stann
Creek
Pier
Railway
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Sittee R.
Glovers
Cockscomb Mts
S. Stann Ck
All Pines
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
Reef
Silver Ck
Seine Bight
Point Placencia
Sinnis R.
Swasey B.
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bladen
Branch
Monkey River
Golden St.
Deep R.
Rio Grande
Middle R.
San Antonio
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Gracias a Dios Falls
Sarstoon River
Rio Dulce
Pto Caballo
Pto Cortez
Railway
Omoa
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept. 1911.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1912.

do with the increase of tuberculosis. In all other respects the conditions of the town are more favourable to health than they were previously. Tuberculosis can only be fought by instructing the people, and this is by no means a hopeless task. To a large extent the diminution in the amount of malaria in the Colony is due to the fact that the people know more about it. In the same way it may be hoped that the diffusion of knowledge with regard to tuberculosis will bring about a diminution in the amount of the disease.

WILFRED COLLET,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
678	Weihaiwei	1910
679	Gambia	”
680	Ashanti	”
681	Turks and Caicos Islands	”
682	Falkland Islands	”
683	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	”
684	Bahamas	1910–1911
685	Colonial Survey Committee	”
686	Malta	”
687	Imperial Institute	1910
688	Gold Coast	”
689	Fiji	”
690	Somaliland	”
691	Hong Kong	”
692	Nyasaland	1910–1911
693	Seychelles	1910
694	Sierra Leone	”
695	Southern Nigeria	”
696	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1910–1911
697	Swaziland	”
698	Barbados	”
699	Trinidad and Tobago	”
700	Mauritius	1910
701	Grenada	”
702	British Guiana	1910–1911
703	Jamaica	”
704	Northern Nigeria	”
705	East Africa Protectorate	”

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Surveys, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 733.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1911.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 706).

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
October, 1912.

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Sketch Map.

No. 733.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1910, *see* No. 706.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Belize,
8th August, 1912.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for 1911.

I have, &c.,

E. J. E. SWAYNE, Colonel,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(26254—2.) Wt. 29478—571. 1125 & 90. 10/12 D & S.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1911.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1911. The other returns are for the calendar year 1911.

On the 1st April, 1910, there was an apparent deficit of $243,753.33, due to expenditure on the railway having been incurred before the authorised loan was floated. Allowing for repayment of money spent in anticipation of the loan, there was practically a surplus of $242,246.67.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1909-10 and 1910-11, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1909-1910.	Amount collected in the year 1910-1911.
	$	$
1. Customs	234,719.15	258,118.42
2. Light and Wharf Dues	8,416.60	9,093.14
3. Internal Taxation	81,102.82	83,507.19
4. Revenues of Government Property	10,387.34	9,333.40
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c. ...	23,001.07	27,386.01
6. Post Office	10,175.58	14,745.06
7. Telegraphs	6,478.56	8,402.43
8. Interest	6,389.81	7,362.12
9. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	119.54	119.54
10. Miscellaneous Receipts	1,730.80	2,738.76
11. Railway Receipts	10,708.62	15,421.17
Total Ordinary Revenue ...	393,229.89	436,227.24
12. Sale of Crown Lands	1,875.07	23,067.86
13. Casual Revenue	—	—
14. Supply of Coin	750.00	—
Total Revenue ...	395,854.96	459,295.10

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1909-1910. $	Amount collected in the year 1910-1911. $
Local Revenue:—		
Belize District	33,148.27*	29,866.37
Corozal District	3,167.78	3,954.49
Orange Walk District	2,461.20	2,496.46†
Stann Creek District	3,886.02	3,916.31
Toledo District	1,862.42	2,168.90
Cayo District	1,718.61	1,836.28
Total Local Revenue ...	46,244.30	44,238.81
Grand Total ...	442,099.26	503,533.91

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1909-1910. $	Expenditure, 1910-1911. $
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	17,008.45	25,465.58
2. Pensions	11,386.53	11,006.38
3. Governor	11,453.62	11,745.10
4. Colonial Secretary's Department	9,009.89	9,168.30
4A. Commissioners of Currency...	60.00	546.87
5. Treasury and Custom House	21,206.27	22,394.88
6. Audit Department	2,756.47	3,257.86
7. Post Office	24,173.54	28,333.72
8. Telegraphs	16,456.31	
8A. Post Office and Telegraphs (special)	872.82	—
9. Judicial	14,684.38	14,450.61
10. District Commissioners ...	14,874.48	15,036.66
11. Police	41,302.44	40,737.91
12. Volunteer Force	7,983.18	7,413.23
13. Prisons	13,904.93	14,948.04
14. Medical Department ...	37,008.60	39,941.73
15. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	2,719.17	1,561.41
16. Education	20,044.15	20,629.37
17. Surveyor-General's Department	21,094.98	25,003.01
18. Botanic Station	2,284.92	2,299.74
19. Miscellaneous	10,277.40	11,281.21
20. Lighthouses	5,114.51	5,641.28
21. Public Works Department ...	8,290.44	20,589.87

---

* Not including Refund to District Board Balances from Fire Fund of $137.87.

† Not including amount of $2·43—Expenditure Refunded.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1909-1910. $	Expenditure, 1910-1911. $
22. Public Works Recurrent ...	27,223.93	39,773.83
22A. Railway Department ...	25,291.07	28,735.35
Total Ordinary Expenditure	366,482.48	399,961.94
23. Public Works Extraordinary	64,123.58	89,608.32
24. Loan Expenditure, Stann Creek Railway	161,361.83	—
24A. Railway Construction, &c....	—	52,813.01
25. Supply of Coin	152.37	—
26. Miscellaneous Extraordinary	—	427.09
Total Expenditure ...	592,120.26	542,810.36
Local Expenditure:—		
Belize District	29,912.60	27,609.61
Corozal District	3,325.94	3,814.01
Orange Walk District ...	1,529.90	2,019.07
Stann Creek District... ...	2,786.93	3,774.65
Toledo District	2,047.16	1,898.04
Cayo District...	837.99	1,813.29
Total Local Expenditure...	40,440.52	40,928.67
Grand Total	632,560.78	583,739.03

The only changes in taxation during the year were those effected by the Tariff Ordinance, No. 14, of 1911, and the Spirits Ordinance, No. 15, of 1911.

The material changes introduced by the former Ordinance were:—

(1.) Beef—salted and pickled—was placed on the *ad valorem* list.

(2.) Coffee of all kinds was made to pay 2 cents per pound; previously only raw coffee paid 2 cents per pound; ground coffee paid *ad valorem* duty.

(3.) The following additions were made to the free list:—

"Apparatus of circus and theatrical companies if taken away within three months."

"Articles imported by any person or corporation in pursuance of any contract with the Government of this Colony wherein it is stipulated that such articles shall be imported free of Customs duties."

"Oil used as fuel for launches, machinery, and traction engines."

"Prizes and medals in respect of which it is certified by the Colonial Secretary that they have been imported for the Police, Volunteer Force, or Fire Brigade."

"Tobacco in small quantities not exceeding one lb. or 50 cigars or 100 cigarettes brought by passengers for their personal use."

"Traction engines."

The latter Ordinance repealed Section 95 of the Spirits Ordinance of 1909 by enlarging the powers of Excise officers to stop and examine persons or vehicles suspected of unlawfully carrying spirits.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1906-07 to 1910-11:—

Year.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.
	$	$
1906-07	391,861	321,439
1907-08	395,183	516,701
1908-09	360,915	535,979
1909-10	395,855	592,120
1910-11	459,295	542,810

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1911, in respect of its assets and liabilities as compared with its position on the 31st March, 1910, is shown in the following table:—

General Revenue.

	1909-10.	1910-11.
	$	$
Due to Crown Agents ...	281,598.10	480,168.00
Other Liabilities	166,363.61	137,792.72
Total Liabilities ...	447,961.71	617,960.72
Total Assets	204,208.38	290,692.13
Deficit	243,753.33	327,268.59

The amounts due to the Crown Agents were advanced by them in anticipation of an authorised loan for the railway and other Public Works. Allowing for repayment to Revenue of the amounts spent on the railway, the deficits would have been converted into surpluses, on the 31st March, 1910, of $242,246.67 and on the 31st March, 1911, of $158,731.41.

At the end of the calendar year 1911 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $352,696.43, of which $162,362.44 was invested.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1911:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures) ...	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures) ...	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures) ...	97,200
Railway and Public Works Loan, 1911 ...	777,600
Total	946,415

The loans of 1885, 1887, and 1891 were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest on the loans of 1885 and 1887, and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1911:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s*.)	26,983.83
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000) ...	30,350.92
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923,, £20,000 ...	45,222.46
Total Sinking Funds	102,557.21

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $159,000. There is also a bronze cent piece and a nickel-bronze five-cents piece, whose issues amount to $3,250 and $1,500, respectively.

Under Ordinance 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $5, $10, $50, and $100.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1911, was $161,433.00.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1907 to 1911:—

Imports.

—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	665,009	690,454	551,840	600,889	620,961
Colonies	5,284	6,530	15,133	25,380	24,988
United States ...	1,360,917	1,152,114	1,135,145	1,254,480	1,278,219
Germany	70,535	71,977	41,861	40,163	51,113
France	38,653	25,418	24,386	31,984	36,077
Mexico	191,581	599,184	755,126	670,387	682,055
Guatemala	12,322	34,770	87,825	114,434	95,634
Honduras	61,688	75,160	65,174	55,286	63,513
Other Countries ...	9,734	21,116	27,758	26,214	34,117
Total Imports	2,415,723	2,676,723	2,704,248	2,819,217	2,886,677

Exports.

—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	454,102	478,145	355,840	329,490	335,465
Colonies	27,017	—	—	—	—
United States ...	1,146,808	1,210,626	1,503,249	1,656,271	1,920,989
Mexico	221,130	219,457	171,230	228,292	288,268
Guatemala	24,451	26,843	42,408	21,792	12,786
Honduras	334,991	238,322	104,376	70,323	101,380
France	—	21,510	26,220	37,952	26,600
Other Countries ...	2,537	6,896	5,700	260	361
Total Exports	2,211,036	2,201,799	2,209,023	2,344,380	2,685,849

Imports.

The value of the imports amounted to $2,886,677, an increase on the previous year's value of $67,460, and more than double the value of imports ten years ago.

The value of coin imported was $31,817, which was $4,352 less than in 1910.

The value of imports from the United Kingdom was $620,961; in 1910 it was $600,889 and in 1909 $551,840. Imports from the United Kingdom have increased 60 per cent. in the last ten years.

Imports from British Possessions amounted in value to $24,988, the principal of which were whiskey from Canada, valued at $4,485, tea from India and Ceylon valued at $4,195, and rice from India at $9,404.

The imports from "other countries" were valued at $2,240,728, an increase of $47,780 on the previous year. Included in this sum are certain imports re-exported without, it may be said, entering in any way into the commerce of the Colony; such as—

			$
Tortoise Shell,	valued at	...	5,041
Chicle,	,,	...	423,335
Rubber,	,,	...	3,939
Mahogany and Cedar,	,,	...	320,052
Logwood,	,,	...	8,767
Coconuts,	,,	...	10,358
Bullion and Coin,	,,	...	18,200
making a total of ...	...	... ...	789,692

The value of imports of dutiable goods re-exported, in bond mostly, was $812,534; so that the imports for local consumption amounted in value to about $638,502, or just over 22 per cent. of the total imports.

The principal items of import and the countries from which they came are shown in the following table:—

	$
Aerated Waters:	
United Kingdom..	1,776
United States ...	684
France	1,044
Animals (Cattle):	
Honduras ...	39,682
Animals (Horses and Mules):	
Guatemala ...	2,610
Honduras ...	2,521
Animals (Turtles):	
Mexico	3,740
Nicaragua ...	1,725
Bacon and Hams:	
United States ...	29,521
Beer and Porter:	
United Kingdom..	6,719
United States ...	7,101
Books (Printed):	
United Kingdom..	2,823
United States ...	1,959
Books and Stationery:	
United Kingdom..	3,834
United States ...	6,690
Boots and Shoes:	
United Kingdom..	4,536
United States ...	93,372
Butter:	
United Kingdom..	4,332
United States ...	16,962
France	11,015
Candles (Other than Tallow):	
United Kingdom..	873
United States ...	3,011
Cheese:	
United Kingdom..	2,625
United States ...	11,144
Holland	3,722
Chicle (Sapodilla Gum):	
Mexico	338,998
Guatemala ...	84,337
Cigars:	
Mexico	3,108
Cigarettes:	
United Kingdom..	3,030
United States ...	3,857
Coal and Coke:	
United Kingdom..	18,102
United States ...	4,123
Coffee (Raw):	
United States ...	12,410
Guatemala ...	5,466
Honduras ...	1,927
Cotton and Silk-piece Goods:	
United Kingdom..	92,435
United States ...	125,389
France	1,532
Germany ...	4,885
Drugs and Chemicals:	
United Kingdom..	5,141
United States ...	39,313
Earthenware and Glass Ware:	
United Kingdom..	5,735
United States ...	2,532
Germany ...	3,225
Food and Drink Supplies (Unenumerated):	
United Kingdom..	23,932
United States ...	82,302
Germany ...	2,188
Fish (Dry):	
United States ...	7,335
Canada	549
Fruit and Vegetables (Fresh):	
United States ...	15,522
Fruit and Vegetables (Preserved):	
United Kingdom..	5,102
United States ...	16,096
Flour:	
United States ...	105,366
Furniture:	
United Kingdom..	3,232
United States ...	7,010
Guns and Rifles:	
United Kingdom..	348
United States ...	6,818
Haberdashery and Millinery:	
United Kingdom..	37,749
United States ...	6,014
Germany ...	3,597
France	1,152
Hardware and Cutlery:	
United Kingdom..	21,340
United States ...	40,790
Germany ...	2,208

	$
Hats and Caps:	
United Kingdom..	11,268
United States ...	4,657
Guatemala ...	1,060
Hay, Oats, and Bran:	
United Kingdom..	2,982
United States ...	7,979
Indian Corn (Maize):	
United States ...	5,447
Iron Roofing:	
United Kingdom..	7,230
United States ...	3,438
Jewellery, Plate, and Watches:	
United Kingdom..	3,281
United States ...	5,768
Lard (and its Compounds):	
United States ...	27,709
Lumber (Dressed):	
United States ...	23,486
Lumber (Rough):	
United States ...	18,267
Machinery:	
United Kingdom..	1,598
United States ...	38,105
Mahogany:	
Mexico	320,052
Manufactured Articles (Unenumerated):	
United Kingdom..	27,251
United States ...	64,812
Germany ...	7,662
Matches:	
United States ...	5,105
Meat (Preserved in Tins or Bottles):	
United States ...	36,428
Milk (Preserved or Condensed):	
United Kingdom..	51,117
United States ...	7,038
Germany ...	6,821
Musical Instruments:	
United Kingdom..	1,699
United States ...	5,443
Germany ...	1,517
Oils (other than Mineral):	
United Kingdom..	5,614
United States ...	5,182
Oil (Fuel for Launches):	
United States ...	13,468
Oil (Gasoline):	
United States ...	5,842
Paints and Varnish:	
United Kingdom..	11,215
United States ...	3,979
Perfumery:	
United Kingdom..	5,352
United States ...	7,207
France	3,013
Germany ...	1,297
Pork:	
United States ...	41,165
Rice:	
United Kingdom..	29,360
India	11,947
United States ...	3,015
Rope and Twine:	
United Kingdom..	5,257
United States ...	12,133
Saddlery and Harness:	
United Kingdom..	4,196
United States ...	956
Sewing Machines:	
United States ...	4,439
Shot and Ammunition:	
United Kingdom..	340
United States ...	8,977
Soap:	
United Kingdom..	65,201
United States ...	6,058
Spirits (Brandy):	
France	7,617
Germany ...	907
Spirits (Whiskey):	
United Kingdom..	6,518
United States ...	1,574
Canada	4,485
Sugar (Refined):	
United Kingdom..	997
United States ...	9,690
Sugar (Unrefined):	
United States ...	3,601
Tanks and Vats:	
United States ...	6,067
Tea:	
United Kingdom..	6,777
India	3,495

	$
Tobacco (Leaf):	
United States	14,764
Trucks (for Mahogany Works):	
United Kingdom	1,189
United States	5,866
Vessels and Boats:	
United States	1,409

	$
Wines (Still):	
United Kingdom	5,483
Germany	3,137
France	5,635
Spain	2,058
Woollen Manufactures (Piece Goods):	
United Kingdom	30,873

The items imported which show any unusual variation in value as compared with the previous year are:—

	$
Increases (in Value):	
Apparel (Wearing)	5,655
Books and Stationery	2,937
Cotton and Silk (Piece Goods)	42,994
Drugs and Patent Medicines	2,707
Fruit and Vegetables (Preserved)	14,455
Haberdashery and Millinery	10,141
Hardware and Cutlery	5,006
Hay	10,990
Indian Corn	7,938
Iron Roofing	3,252
Meats (Preserved)	13,663
Musical Instruments	2,887
Perfumery	3,315
Rope and Twine	2,927
Soap	37,276
Woollen Manufactures	2,294
Gin	2,263
Tobacco (Leaf)	415
Wines (Sparkling)	180
Wines (Still)	1,737
Animals (Cattle)	2,639
Coal	9,030
Coconuts	1,654

	$
Increases—*cont.*	
Fish (Dried)	1,418
Fruit and Vegetables (Fresh)	2,290
Machinery	2,458
Mahogany	12,722
Oil (for Launches)	2,291
Tanks and Vats	1,073
Decreases (in Value):	
Aerated Waters	1,505
Boots and Shoes	15,649
Flour	15,727
Furniture	2,079
Hats and Caps	6,964
Lard	4,988
Milk (Condensed)	4,317
Lumber (Dressed)	1,464
Oil—130° Flash Test	2,579
Spirits (Brandy)	1,968
Spirits (Whiskey)	6,036
Animals (Horses and Mules)	944
Animals (Turtle)	911
Bullion and Coin	4,252
Plant for Railways, &c.	11,408
Sapodilla Gum	18,544
Trucks for Mahogany Works	8,881
Vessels and Boats	5,197

It is probable that the decline in the importation of aerated waters is due to an increased activity in their local manufacture.

The importation of coffee from the United States increased 100 per cent., while that from Guatemala decreased by nearly the same amount.

The importation of preserved fruits and vegetables from the United States was nearly double what it was the year before, while the importation from the United Kingdom remained much the same.

The importation of preserved meats in tins increased 63 per cent. from the United States; the quantity imported from the United Kingdom was comparatively small.

The importation of soap from the United Kingdom increased 40 per cent. over the previous year's figures. This is one of the items which the home market seems to hold securely.

The importation of kerosene oil of over 130 degrees flash decreased and the revenue lost over $1,000 in duty from this source. It is a question whether some of the oil imported free of duty for launches is not used for lighting purposes, or at any rate for purposes for which duty-paid oil should be used.

The importation of brandy decreased while that of gin increased. That of whiskey also decreased, the duty collected last year being $1,552 less than in the previous year.

The consumption of leaf tobacco, manufactured tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes was remarkably the same as in 1910; the duty collected on cigars differing only by $3·39; on leaf tobacco by $228.64; on cigarettes by $411.42; and on manufactured tobacco by $41.50 from those of the previous year.

The classification under the four heads, as below, shows the increases and decreases as compared with 1910:—

	$	$	$
Class II. Raw Materials—			
1910	772,946		
1911	786,829		
Increase		13,883	
Class III. Manufactured Materials— 1. Textiles.			
1910	358,703		
1911	415,938		
Increase		57,235	
Class III. Manufactured Materials— 3. Other			
1910	540,757		
1911	561,510		
Increase		20,753	
Total Increase ...			91,871
Less decreases under:—			
Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.—			
1910	925,452		
1911	916,545		
Decrease		8,907	
Class III. Manufactured Materials— 2. Metals.			
1910	185,190		
1911	174,038		
Decrease		11,152	
Class IV. Coin and Bullion—			
1910	36,169		
1911	31,817		
Decrease		4,352	
Total decrease ...			24,411
Nett increase ...			67,460

Customs import duties amounted to $242,750.11. In the previous year they were $237,858.29.

Exports.

Turning to the exports, their total value was $2,685,849. This is $341,469 in excess of the previous year. Of this $1,083,623, *i.e.*, 40 per cent., represents home produce exported, the balance, $1,602,226, or 60 per cent., representing the produce of other countries passing through the Colony for export.

The total trade was $5,572,526, made up as follows:—

	$
Imports for home consumption ...	638,502
Other Imports	2,248,175
Home produce exported	1,083,623
Foreign produce exported	1,602,226

The value of coin exported was $18,200.

The following table shows the value of the exports of home and foreign produce to the United Kingdom and other countries:—

	United Kingdom.	Other Countries.	Total.
	$	$	$
Home produce—	300,130 ...	783,493 ...	1,083,623
Foreign produce—	35,335 ...	1,566,891 ...	1,602,226
			2,685,849

The exports were distributed under the following heads:—

	$
British Honduras produce	1,083,623
Imports re-exported	1,584,026
Bullion and coin	18,200
Total	2,685,849

Of the total exports the United Kingdom took $335,465, or 12·5 per cent.; the United States $1,920,989, or 71·5 per cent.; Mexico $288,268, or nearly 11 per cent.; Honduras $101,380, or 3 per cent.; France $26,600, or 1 per cent.; Guatemala $12,786, and Nicaragua $361. In 1909, exports to the United Kingdom were 16 per cent. of the whole. In 1910 they were 14 per cent. and last year 12·5 per cent. In 1909 exports to the United States were 68 per cent.; in 1910 70 per cent. and last year 71·5 per cent.

There was no export trade to British Colonies last year.

It will be observed that while the United Kingdom sells to the Colony very much less than she buys, the United States buy from it much more than they sell.

The principal exports to the United Kingdom and the United States were:—

—	United Kingdom.		United States.	
	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.
Mahogany ... ... feet	3,940,287	420,002	3,671,296	4,988,995
Cedar ... ... "	149,696	5,366	208,734	1,134,948
Logwood ... ... tons	1,831	—	—	—
Bananas ... ... bunches	—	—	450,365	—
Plantains ... ... number	—	—	2,853,445	—
Coconuts ... .. "	431,468	—	4,616,381	151,050
Chicle ... ... lbs.	6,653	—	762,168	2,451,169
Rubber ... ... "	1,624	—	19,738	2,830
Sponges ... ... "	1,731	—	8,091	—
Tortoise Shell ... ... "	2,327	1,040	—	—

1,400 tons of logwood were shipped to France. The mahogany shipped to the United Kingdom exceeded that of the previous year by 228,447 feet and that to the United States the previous year by 2,722,480 feet. The total export of mahogany, 13,020,580 feet, was greater by 2,845,009 feet than in 1910. It appears to have been, with the exception of 1908, the largest quantity exported in any year. The number of bunches of bananas shipped was 450,365, or 9,184 in excess of 1910. The number of coconuts shipped was 327,578 more, and the number of pounds of chicle 419,100 less, than in 1910. The export of rubber amounted to 24,192 lbs., as against 16,835 lbs. in 1910.

The value of exports of home products and of foreign products during the year, as compared with 1910, is shown in the following table:—

—	Home Produce.	Foreign Produce.	Total.
Class I.—Live Animals and Food, &c:	$	$	$
1910...	290,092	135,148	425,240
1911...	271,724	198,310	470,034
Increase	—	63,162	44,794
Decrease	18,368	—	—
Class II.—Raw Materials:			
1910...	719,181	1,029,678	1,748,859
1911...	808,663	1,217,384	2,026,047
Increase	89,482	187,706	277,188
Class III.—Manufactured Materials:			
1910...	2,813	116,824	119,637
1911...	3,236	168,332	171,568
Increase	423	51,508	51,931
Class IV.—Coin and Bullion:			
1910...	—	15,475	15,475
1911...	—	18,200	18,200
Increase	—	2,725	2,725

The amount and value of the principal exports during the five years 1907-1911 are as follows:—

—	1907.		1908.		1909.		1910.		1911.	
	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$	Ft.	$
Mahogany ...	9,569,566	536,711	14,398,422	782,522	10,673,881	693,295	10,175,571	653,878	13,020,580	850,801
Cedar	406,334	22,096	736,639	38,094	936,708	65,564	711,237	43,731	1,498,744	89,455
Logwood ..	Tons. 6,663	128,252	Tons. 5,774	110,046	Tons. 6,134	113,606	Tons. 3,669	68,522	Tons. 3,231	54,549
Bananas ...	Bunches. 652,930	159,549	Bunches. 471,600	112,294	Bunches. 390,350	89,010	Bunches. 441,181	107,945	Bunches. 450,365	93,392
Plantains ...	No. 849,550	6,012	No. 939,000	7,125	No. 2,238,500	16,855	No. 3,514,101	27,962	No. 2,853,445	23,206
Coconuts ...	4,550,175	80,171	5,072,150	83,068	5,545,679	91,171	4,871,321	120,730	5,198,899	131,140
Rubber	Lbs. 24,968	18,957	Lbs. 27,862	18,054	Lbs. 18,962	14,857	Lbs. 16,835	18,650	Lbs. 24,192	18,647
Chicle	1,689,118	476,629	1,790,865	521,958	2,213,450	757,693	2,790,890	936,650	3,219,990	968,392
Sarsaparilla ...	2,246	671	1,189	348	1,115	334	2,967	483	—	—
Tortoise Shell ...	2,987	20,771	2,491	12,022	3,484	17,560	2,703	14,965	3,367	19,485

Excise.

The locked-still system of making rum, which came into operation on the 31st December, 1910, has worked successfully throughout the year. There have been no complaints from the owners of the stills that the quality of their rum has deteriorated from their having to make it under lock and key, and the revenue appears to be sufficiently safeguarded from loss at the distilleries. The duty collected was $58,086.

There were eight stills in operation; of these seven are in the Corozal District at the following ranchos: San Roque, San Maximo, San Juan Saltillo, San Francisco, Aventura, Louisville, and Santa Anna, and one in Orange Walk at Louisiana Farm. With the exception of the one at Saltillo, they may be described as well-equipped pot stills. No still in the Toledo District was licensed during the year.

The output of rum for the years 1907-11 was as under:—

Year.	No. of Stills.	Rum made.	Duty Collected.
		Gallons.	$
1907	11	57,826	51,707
1908	10	57,964	47,731
1909	10	62,708	55,122
1910	9	46,714	57,873
1911	8	53,281	58,086

The transactions in rum in the various districts were:—

—	Output in Proof Gallons.	Sold locally Proof Gallons.	Warehoused in District.	Warehoused in Belize.
Corozal	42,201	1,786	6,916	32,742
Orange Walk	11.080	1,088	—	1,502
Total	53,281	2,874	6,916	34,244

The quantity exported was 6,605 gallons, the bulk of which was sent to Honduras. In 1910, 3,826 gallons, and in 1909, 2,672 gallons, were exported.

Shipping.

The following tables give the number of sailing ships and steamers entered and cleared during the past five years, and the number and tonnage of British, Norwegian, and American vessels entered and cleared, respectively:—

Entered.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907	712	12,410	276	218,837
1908	566	14,838	288	239,940
1909	421	11,848	329	339,669
1910	459	11,899	437	479,212
1911	613	14,643	439	281,174

Cleared.

Year.	Sailing Vessels.		Steamers.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907	715	13,191	306	245,572
1908	576	14,988	290	237,677
1909	420	11,420	331	335,387
1910	480	12,397	441	475,919
1911	622	14,426	446	278,124

Sailing Vessels—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907	567	10,850	27	1,838	126	2,213
1908	395	8,810	59	3,107	112	2,921
1909	292	7,566	53	2,953	76	1,229
1910	307	7,608	69	2,858	83	1,433
1911	426	10,956	73	1,812	114	1,875

Sailing Vessels—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907	551	10,443	30	2,047	134	2,341
1908	401	8,815	64	3,266	111	2,907
1909	289	7,402	58	2,894	73	1,124
1910	327	7,603	69	2,858	83	1,433
1911	435	10,797	74	1,814	113	1,815

Steamers—Entered.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907 ...	89	110,250	61	3,106	120	97,451	35	31,761
1908 ...	47	79,856	55	2,762	141	112,259	45	45,063
1909 ...	70	192,320	72	2,311	181	141,093	6	2,945
1910 ...	127	324,725	100	2,998	169	109,880	41	41,609
1911 ...	67	69,845	134	3,035	181	160,139	57	48,155

Steamers—Cleared.

Year.	British.		American.		Norwegian.		Others.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
1907 ...	92	117,424	61	1,558	114	92,353	39	34,237
1908 ...	48	79,932	60	2,958	138	109,748	44	45,039
1909 ...	72	189,930	72	2,369	181	140,143	6	2,945
1910 ...	129	321,991	104	3,071	168	109,196	40	41,661
1911 ...	68	67,300	140	3,096	181	159,573	57	48,155

The total tonnage that entered and cleared at all the various ports in the Colony for the years 1910 and 1911 were:—

Year.	Sailing Vessels.	Steam Vessels.	Total.
1910	24,296	955,131	979,427
1911	29,069	559,298	588,367

During part of 1909 and 1910, steamers of 5,000 tons each, flying the British flag and chartered by the United Fruit Company, called at Belize with mails and passengers on their way between New Orleans and Port Limon. In view of the small number of passengers from Belize availing themselves of these steamers they ceased running after a year. This is the reason of the falling off in British steamer tonnage in 1911.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed, one of which was disallowed.

No. 3 provides for the segregation of lepers, of whom there are believed to be two in the Colony.

No. 5 regulates appeals to the Privy Council and brings the practice in this Colony into line with that of other Colonies.

No. 6 provides for the issue of fiats for the grant of land to the heirs of deceased persons who, having paid for Crown land, have died before the completion of the survey and issue of a fiat.

No. 9 provides for the registration of brands and the compulsory branding of cattle.

No. 18 establishes a municipality for the town of Belize. The Town Board of Belize is constituted in such manner as the Governor may direct. At present it consists of nine elected members, elected under a system of proportional representation. The franchise is conferred on persons owning property of the annual value of $60, or occupying property of the annual value of $96, or receiving an annual salary of $300. The ownership and occupation qualifications have since been extended to women. Within the town of Belize the Town Board exercises the same powers that are exercised by District Boards and Local Boards of Health in districts.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created, consisting of the Governor, as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the outdistricts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1911 was $18,041.77, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	15,604.71
Grants on account of pupil teachers	1,142.28
Grants for needlework	214.33
Grants for agriculture	24.00
Bonuses on examination results	806.63
Building grants	249.82
	$18,041.77

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $34,259.05. Of this sum the Government contributed $20,103.20, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	18,041.77
Expenses of administration ...	2,061.43

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (3,312) was $10.34. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the two preceding years:—

—	1909.	1910.	1911.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government...	6·13	6·27	6·07
School Fees	·87	·90	·92
Voluntary Contributions	2·80	3·26	3·35
Total	9·80	10·43	10·34

The average attendances during 1909, 1910, and 1911 were 3,187, 3,173, and 3,312, respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 46. There were 44 in 1910 and 41 in 1909.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 4,725 as compared with 4,641 in 1910 and 4,447 in 1909.

There were also in operation ten unaided primary schools with 239 in average daily attendance.

The average yearly receipts of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years per unit of average attendance are shown in the following table:—

Schools: Denomination.	Average Attendance.			Total School Fees.			Receipts of School Fees per unit of average attendance.		
	1909.	1910.	1911.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1909.	1910.	1911.
				$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England.	601	640	627	744·91	791·01	882·50	1·24	1·24	1·40
Roman Catholic.	1,444	1,406	1,589	932·37	993·97	1,150·09	·64	·71	·72
Wesleyan ...	809	775	730	762·80	717·60	702·60	·94	·93	·96
Baptist ...	197	207	208	188·75	180·40	181·35	·96	·87	·87
Non-Denominational.	136	145	158	155·30	158·55	118·78	1·14	1·09	·75
	3,187	3,173	3,312	2,784·13	2,841·53	3,035·32	·87	·89	·92

The smallest proportion of fees is received by the Roman Catholic schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

The sum of $250.66 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1911, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates. The results of the examinations were not as satisfactory as usual. Only one candidate passed the preliminary, and one the junior, examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor-house.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1911:—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1911.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1911.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	40	614	514	70	30	36·86
Corozal Hospital ...	8	129	117	13	7	6·47
Orange Walk Hospital	4	114	113	6	4	5·50
Punta Gorda Hospital	—	78	65	7	6	3·20
Belize:						
Lunatic Asylum ...	63	7	1	6	63	61·10
Poor-House ...	31	12	4	6	33	31·63

Savings Bank.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1911, was 784. Deposits amounted to $58,274.91, and withdrawals to $44,880.34. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1911 was $92,556.76.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $76,897.75.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 98 non-commissioned officers and men—five short of full strength. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine. Owing to the development of the Colony, it will be necessary to somewhat increase the establishment.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in the Belize Prison, from 1907 to 1911:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1907	304	60·35
1908	342	61·30
1909	297	66·01
1910	323	83·27
1911	355	73·55

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good and there were only 51 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There were no deaths from natural causes. There was one execution.

The number of offences reported to the police or magistrates during the year 1911 was 1,188, or 32 less than in 1910. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,092, or 56 more than in 1910.

Informations were filed against 66 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 50 cases and for the prisoner in nine. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in seven cases.

There was one conviction for murder, two for manslaughter, and one for rape. Twenty-two convictions were obtained for other offences against the person and twelve for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 40,809, consisting of 20,526 males and 20,283 females.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past 10 years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Diseases:										
Malarial Fever	8·8	8·6	8·1	9·3	9·6	7·0	6·1	7·1	5·1	6·6
Dysentery	1·3	1·0	·9	1·3	·9	·7	·8	1·0	1·0	1·2
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	·068	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	—	·173	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary ...	·9	1·3	1·2	1·3	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·3	1·4
Nervous Diseases ...	1·5	2·7	2·1	1·9	1·9	2·6	·2	1·8	·9	·7
Circulatory Diseases ...	1·0	·4	·5	·6	·4	2·7	·9	·7	1·0	1·5
Respiratory Diseases ...	1·9	1·6	1·4	2·0	4·7	1·8	1·1	1·5	2·5	3·0
Digestive Diseases ...	2·1	1·7	2·1	2·8	2·0	3·1	3·1	2·8	2·8	2·8

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1906 to 1910, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1911:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1906-1910.	Deaths for every 100 Births. 1911.
Indian	81·27	64·93
Carib	56·71	52·70
Negro	56·33	53·54
Other races	68·58	60·69

The birth-rate was 42·393, and the mortality 24·798 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 700 out a total of 1,730, or over 40·46 per cent.

Four hundred and twelve marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 10·10 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000
1907... ...	1,553	36·6	456	941	22·1
1908... ...	1,590	36·7	406	1,010	23·3
1909... ...	1,634	37·0	412	964	21·8
1910... ...	1,665	36·9	385	1,052	23·3
1911... ...	1,730	42·4	412	1,012	24·8

During 1911 the excess of male over female births was eight; and of male over female deaths 50. The average rainfall for the ten years 1902-1911 in Belize was 85·99 inches; the maximum—130·93 inches—being in 1911, and the minimum—63·76 inches—in 1910. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell.

Comparative return.

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1902	65·89	107
1903	70·90	118
1904	87·00	119
1905	106·42	109
1906	99·32	102
1907	91·17	80
1908	80·00?	80?
1909	64·49	91
1910	63·76	124
1911	130·93	166

Summary of Meteorological Observations, taken at Belize, for the year 1911.

Months	Barometer corrected.		Relative humidity.		Shade temperature.		Terrestrial radiation.		Rain.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	No. of days.	Inches.
			°	°	°	°				
January ...	30·334	30·148	97	69	84	68	—	—	17	12·575
February...	30·490	30·154	97	74	85	62	—	—	8	3·80
March ...	30·252	30·174	97	66	89	72	—	—	4	1·450
April ...	30·188	29·916	91	72	89	74	—	—	4	1·3
May ...	30·088	29·732	97	70	89	73	—	—	16	26·390
June ...	30·123	29·670	97	77	90	72	—	—	20	22·40
July ...	30·346	29·885	97	67	88	72	—	—	19	12·385
August ...	30·061	29·866	94	63	90	72	—	—	16	7·65
September.	30·242	29·903	97	72	89	74	—	—	18	13·850
October ...	30·051	29 909	97	72	89	76	—	—	10	2·70
November	30·401	29·918	97	74	87	62	—	—	20	20·125
December	30·296	29·860	97	67	86	63	—	—	14	6·3025
	30·243	29·927	96	70	88	70	—	—	166	130·9275
	Average Monthly.								Total.	

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $17,703, as compared with $13,383 in 1910, showing an increase of $4,320.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $14,165.50, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $12,000, making a total expenditure of $26,165.50. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $4,888.

The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1907 to 1911 were as follows:—

——	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Ordinary Letters	179,084	188,603	200,838	216,716	225,818
Registered Articles	9,778	9,725	10,545	11,258	11,246
Postcards	24,638	24,547	23,560	22,756	22,468
Newspapers, Books, &c. ...	112,180	114,817	152,459	178,526	180,841
Postal Parcels	5,234	7,618	8,500	10,945	12,235

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.
Letters	82,997	104,263	106,545	99,757	92,815
Registered Articles	3,793	4,416	6,364	4,344	3,998
Postcards	1,485	1,940	2,019	1,446	1,600
Newspapers, Books, and Parcels	11,285	15,799	—	—	—
Newspapers and Books... ...	—	—	16,192	13,015	10,870
Parcels	—	—	959	1,009	1,144

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, and 1911:—

Year.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1907	19,023	12,089	31,112
1908	11,848	16,036	27,884
1909	10,087	16,595	26,682
1910	12,850	17,560	30,410
1911	16,054	17,124	33,178

The working expenses of the system amounted to $10,966.68, and the receipts to $8,736.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony, to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The year must be considered as a prosperous one, although the high price of mahogany and consequent high price of labour retarded agricultural development. The prices of fruit were, however, somewhat higher than in previous years.

The census was taken on the 2nd April, 1911, and showed a total population of 40,458, as against 37,479 in 1901, showing an increase of only 2,979, which is 1,404 less than the natural increase by excess of births over deaths. The rush of labourers to the Panama Canal during the last ten years has to some extent affected the population of this Colony, but it has scarcely affected natives of the Colony. The number of people in the Colony, born in the Colony, was 32,805; in 1901 it was 28,505, or 4,300 less. On the 2nd April last some of our people were working just over the frontiers of Guatemala and Mexico on temporary jobs. Practically all those born in the Colony have remained in the Colony, but persons born elsewhere have left without being replaced in equal numbers. In 1901 the proportion of British-born inhabitants was 80·81. In 1911 it was

84·28. Notwithstanding the development of trade with the United States, the *personnel* of the Colony is more British than ever. The number of inhabitants born in the United States was 159 in 1911, as compared with 178 in 1901. The proportion of native-born inhabitants in 1911 was 81·8, as compared with 76·05 in 1901. Of the population, 38·28 per cent. can read and write as compared with 33·67 in 1901. During the decade our own people have not left us, and although the rush of labour to the Panama Canal has retarded progress it has not set the Colony back.

The end of May and beginning of June were remarkable for an unusually heavy rainfall, which at the head of the Sibun and Stann Creek Valleys seems to have exceeded any previously known. Very serious damage was done to the Stann Creek Railway, and two of the principal bridges were destroyed near the head of the line, where fruit was not yet offering for export. Notwithstanding the serious damage done, Mr. Newton Howes, the Superintendent of the Railway, was able to take trains up to the twenty-second mile within a couple of days of the flood, and at no time was the railway unable to convey fruit offered. At the end of the year Mr. W. R. Haughton, formerly Chief Engineer of the Southern Bengal State Railway, visited the Colony with a view to advise on the works to be carried out to render the line secure in the event of similar floods in the future. His recommendations, which in most respects coincided with those of Mr. Auld, the Director of Public Works, are being carried out. It will cost approximately £20,000 to put the line in thoroughly good order. This does not mean that this amount of damage was done, for the experience of the year shows that it is necessary to make much more provision for allowing flood water to pass under the line than had ever been contemplated. Traffic has been maintained to the head of the line by means of crib-work bridges.

The floods have, however, had their bright side. Mahogany has to be brought down to the coast by water, and many of the creeks near which it is cut remain dry for long periods, sometimes long enough for the timber to spoil. The heavy floods throughout the Colony brought out all cut timber in good condition.

Banana fields were damaged for the time, but not permanently, while ground moles, which had been doing much damage, were destroyed.

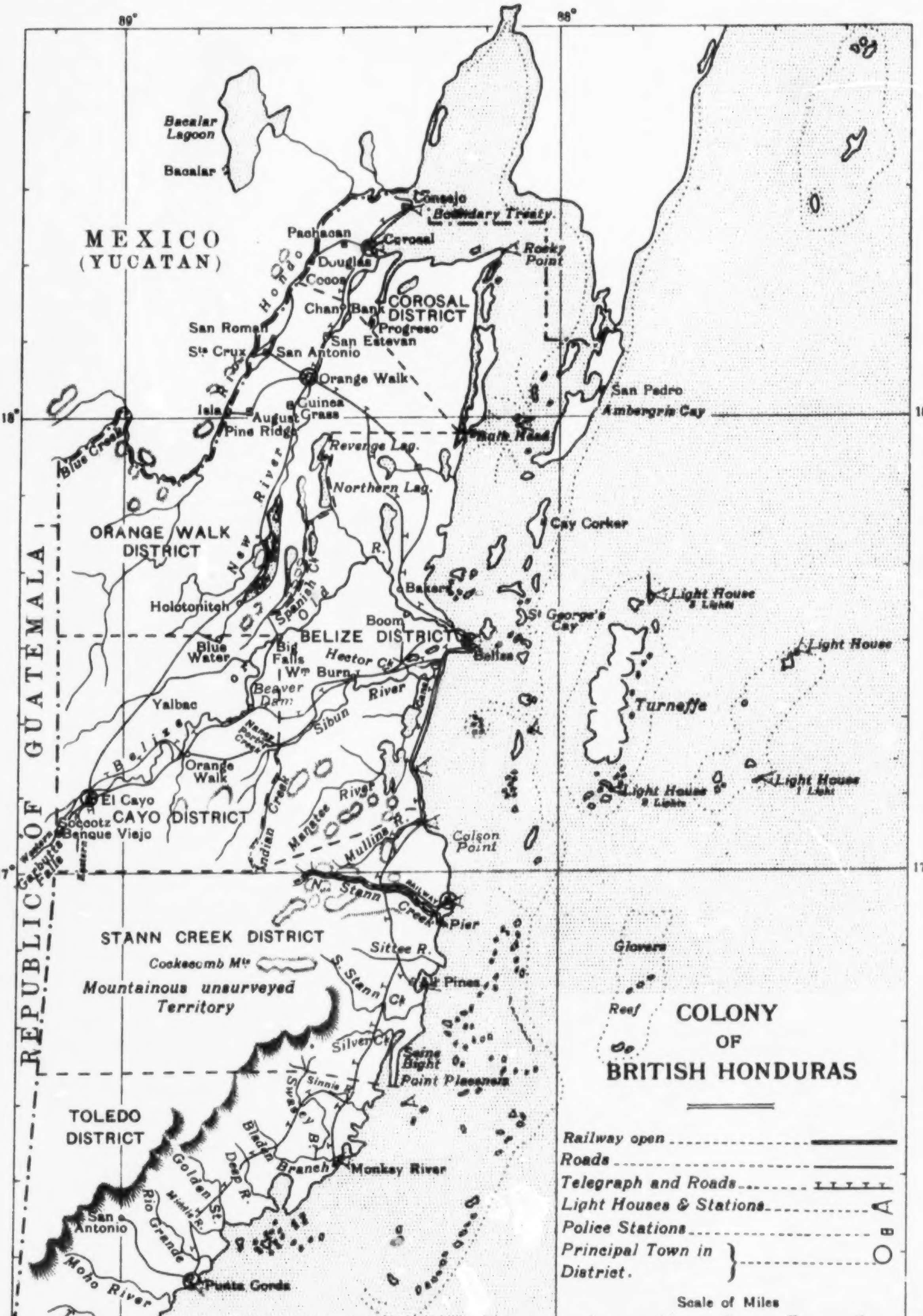
The Colony sent a small detachment of Volunteers to England to attend their Majesties' coronation. The Honourable C. Melhado also attended as the accredited representative of the Colony, and was made a Companion of the Order of Saint Michael and Saint George. In the Colony every effort was made to make the celebration worthy of the occasion. The illumination of the public buildings by electric light, carried out by Mr. Auld, the Director of Public Works, was a fine sight. A great crowd of people came from the out-districts to Belize, which never was so full before. It is noteworthy that during the two days' festivities the Police did not have to make a single arrest.

In the report for 1910 reference was made to the increase of tuberculosis in the Colony and the formation of an Anti-tuberculosis League. Public notices warning against spitting have been placed in streets and stores, and a good deal of simple literature on the subject has been distributed. Lectures have also been delivered. It is too early to judge what success is attending the efforts of the League, but the spread of the disease has apparently been checked. For the twelve months ended on the 31st May, 1912 (the latest period for which returns had been received when this report was written) the deaths in the town of Belize from phthisis and tuberculosis amounted to 30. For the previous twelve months they amounted to 47.

In August was completed the engagement of Mr. Perry, of the West Ham Fire Brigade, as Engineer Instructor of the Belize Fire Brigade. Mr. Perry's engagement gave much satisfaction. The methods of using the Brigade's appliances were brought up to date, the appliances were throughly overhauled, and a considerable sum spent in further equipment.

At the beginning of October was constituted a Town Board for the City of Belize, exercising control also over St. George's Cay, Cay Caulker, and San Pedro, Ambergris Cay. This is the area to which the action of the District Board of Belize had been practically confined. The Town Board has to consist of at least nine members, and the Governor decides whether they shall be all elective or all nominated or some elective and some nominated. As an experiment, the Board at present constituted consists of nine members, elected on a system of proportional representation. Most of the gentlemen elected have served on the District Board.

WILFRED COLLET,
Colonial Secretary.


COLONY
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
MEXICO
(YUCATAN)
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Rio Hondo
Rocky Point
Chan Bank
COROSAL DISTRICT
Progreso
San Roman
San Estevan
Sta Crux
San Antonio
Orange Walk
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Guinea Grass
Isla
August
Pine Ridge
Bulk Head
Blue Creek
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
New River
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
Cay Corker
Bakers
Holotonitch
Spanish Ck
Old R.
Light House 2 Lights
St George's Cay
Boom
BELIZE DISTRICT
Blue Water
Big Falls
Belize
Light House
Hector Ck
Wm Burn
Beaver Dam
River
Turneffe
Yalbac
Sibun
Belize R.
Orange Walk
Light House 2 Lights
Light House 1 Light
El Cayo
Socootz
CAYO DISTRICT
Benque Viejo
Indian Creek
Manatee River
Mullins R.
Colson Point
Garbutts Falls
Western
Eastern
Nth Stann Creek
Railway
Pier
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Cockscomb Mts
Sittee R.
Glovers
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
S. Stann Ck
Pines
Reef
Silver Ck
Seine Bight
Point Placencia
Sinnis R.
Swasey Br.
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bladen Branch
Deep R.
Monkey River
Golden St.
Rio Grande
Middle R.
San Antonio
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Barranco
Temash R.
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
Gracias a Dios Falls
Rio Dulce
Pto Caballo
Pto Cortes
Omoa
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°
Railway open
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District.
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept: 1911.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
707	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1910
708	Uganda	1910–1911
709	Straits Settlements	1910
710	Basutoland	1910–1911
711	Leeward Islands	"
712	St. Vincent	"
713	St. Lucia	1910
714	St. Helena	1911
715	Weihaiwei	"
716	Ceylon	1910–1911
717	Gibraltar	1911
718	Gambia	"
719	Ashanti	"
720	Falkland Islands	"
721	Seychelles	"
722	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast...	"
723	Hong Kong	"
724	Sierra Leone	"
725	Gold Coast	"
726	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
727	Fiji	"
728	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1911–1912
729	Basutoland	"
730	Colonial Survey Committee	"
731	Malta	"
732	Nyasaland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
71	Imperial Institute	Foodstuffs.
72	Fiji	Hurricane, 1910.
73	Jamaica	Cayman Islands.
74	Ceylon	Mineral Survey, 1906–7 and 1907–8.
75	West Indies...	Imperial Department of Agriculture.
76	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.

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1912.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL

No. 784.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1912.

(For Report for 1911, see No. 733.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty
January, 1914.

LONDON:
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SKETCH MAP.

No. 784.

BRITISH HONDURAS

(For Report for 1911, *see* No. 733.)

THE GOVERNOR to THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Belize,
19th November, 1913.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for 1912.

I have, &c.,

WILFRED COLLET,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(32987—2.) Wt. 35104—688. 1125 & 90. 1/14. D & S.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1912.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1912. The other returns are for the calendar year 1912.

On the 1st April, 1911, there was an apparent deficit of $327,268.59, due to expenditure on the railway having been incurred before the authorised loan was floated.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1910-11 and 1911-12, under each head of revenue and service, respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1910-1911.	Amount collected in the year 1911-1912.
	$	$
1. Customs	258,118.42	278,807.17
2. Light and Wharf Dues	9,093.14	9,490.76
3. Internal Taxation	83,507.19	83,507.19
4. Revenues of Government Property	9,333.40	18,443.93
5. Fees of Court or Office, &c.	27,386.01	23,839.50
6. Post Office	14,745.06	17,875.09
7. Telegraphs	8,402.43	9,423.94
8. Interest	7,362.12	14,538.39
9. Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	119.54	119.54
10. Miscellaneous Receipts	2,738.76	2,067,45
11. Railway Receipts	15,421.17	15,157.54
Total Ordinary Revenue	436,227.24	477,527.02
12. Sale of Crown Lands	23,067.86	9,942.11
13. Casual Revenue	—	345.72
14. Supply of Coin	—	10,500.00
15. Reimbursements from Loan Funds on account of Expenditure on Railway Construction and Loan Works	—	703,593.25
Total Revenue	459,295.10	1,201,908.10

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the year 1910-1911. $	Amount collected in the year 1911-1912. $
Local Revenue:—		
Belize District	29,866.37	27,149.87
Corozal District	3,954.49	3,522.07
Orange Walk District	2,496.46*	1,888.33
Stann Creek District	3,916.31	3,400.42
Toledo District	2,168.90	2,061.20
Cayo District	1,836.28	2,404.58
Total Local Revenue ...	44,238.81	40,426.47
Grand Total ...	503,533.91	1,242,334.57

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1910-1911. $	Expenditure, 1911-1912. $
1. Charges on account of Public Debt	25,465.58	38,370.02
2. Pensions	11,006.38	11,077.24
2a. Compassionate Allowance ...	—	1,500.00
3. Governor	11,745.10	10,905.42
4. Colonial Secretary's Department	9,168.30	9,031.44
4a. Commissioners of Currency ...	546.87	66.65
5. Treasury and Custom House ...	22,394.88	22,856.77
6. Audit Department	3,257.86	3,080.42
7. Post Office and Telegraph Department	28,333.72	28,619.38
8. Judicial	14,450.61	16,856,96
9. District Commissioners ...	15,036.66	15,219.81
10. Police	40,737.91	42,231.47
11. Volunteer Force	7,413.23	6,922.90
12. Prisons	14,948.04	14,451.35
13. Medical Department	39,941.73	39,264.24
14. Central Board of Health and Quarantine	1,561.41	830.89
15. Education	20,629.37	20,658.22
16. Surveyor General's Department	25,003.01	18,422.88
17. Botanic Station	2,299.74	2,424.67
18. Miscellaneous	11,281.21	8,998.98
19. Railway Department	28,735.35	32,560.22
20. Lighthouses	5,641.28	5,159.89
21. Public Works Department ...	20,589.87	15,971.22
22. Public Works and Telegraph Recurrent	39,773.83	30,612.42
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	399,961.94	396,093.46

---

* Not including amount of $2·43—expenditure refunded.

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure, 1910-1911.	Expenditure, 1911-1912.
	$	$
23. Public Works Extraordinary	89,608.32	32,743.66
24. Railway Construction Extraordinary	52,813.01	48,955.16
25. Miscellaneous Extraordinary ...	427.09	12,076.71
26. Loan Works	—	42,253.72
Total Expenditure ...	542,810.36	532,122.71
Local Expenditure:—		
Belize District	27,609.61	28,048.11*
Corozal District...	3,814.01	3,928.37
Orange Walk District... ...	2,019.07	2,417.20†
Stann Creek District	3,774.65	4,035.07
Toledo District	1,898.04	2,193.66
Cayo District	1,813.29	2,437.39
Total Local Expenditure...	40,928.67	43,059.80
Grand Total	583,739.03	575,182.51

The only change in the tariff during the year was that effected by the Tariff Ordinance No. 13 of 1912, which amended the Tariff Ordinance No. 14 of 1911 by taking away from the Governor the power to exempt from duty by Order in Council raw material intended for use in any manufacture in which the produce of the Colony is used and making it necessary to obtain the consent of the Legislative Council to do so.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years 1907-08 to 1911-12:—

Year.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.
	$	$
1907-08	395,183	516,701
1908-09	360,915	535,979
1909-10	395,855	592,120
1910-11	459,295	542,810
1911-12	1,201,908‡	532,123

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1912, in respect of its assets and liabilities as compared with the position on the 31st March, 1911, is shown in the following table:—

---

* Including landing place and pen for cattle, $808.20.

† Including new vat for market, $300.00; fencing and laying out new cemetery, $162.15.

‡ Includes $703,593.25 reimbursed from loan funds on account of expenditure on railway and other public works.

General Revenue.

	1911. $	1912. $
Assets	290,692.13	557,544.45
Liabilities	617,960.72	215,027.65
Excess of Assets	—	342,516.80
Excess of Liabilities	327,268.59	—

At the end of the calendar year 1912 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $341,126.37, of which $173,797.58 was invested.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1912:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures)	97,200
Railway and Public Works Loan, 1911	777,600
Total	946,415

The loans of 1885, 1887, and 1891 were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest on the loans of 1885 and 1887 and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions, as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1912:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s.*)	27,442.88
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000) ...	29,543.60
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923, £20,000) ...	48,151.65
Total Sinking Funds	105,138.13

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $158,916.75. There is also a bronze cent piece and nickel-bronze five-cents piece, whose issues amount to $3,750 and $2,500, respectively.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $10, $50, and $100.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1912, was $162,783.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1908 to 1912:—

Imports.

—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	690,454	551,840	600,889	620,961	666,765
Colonies	6,530	15,133	25,380	24,988	45,654
United States ...	1,152,114	1,135,145	1,254,480	1,278,219	1,327,550
Germany	71,977	41,861	40,163	51,113	55,072
France	25,418	24,386	31,984	36,077	43,813
Mexico	599,184	755,126	670,387	682,055	1,100,136
Guatemala	34,770	87,825	114,434	95,634	145,269
Honduras	75,160	65,174	55,286	63,513	77,039
Other Countries ...	21,116	27,758	26,214	34,117	35,610
Total Imports	2,676,723	2,704,248	2,819,217	2,886,677	3,496,908

Exports.

—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ...	478,145	355,840	329,490	335,465	309,336
Colonies	—	—	—	—	—
United States .	1,210,626	1,503,249	1,656,271	1,920,989	2,249,732
Mexico	219,457	171,230	228,292	288,268	127,636
Guatemala	26,843	42,408	21,792	12,786	46,338
Honduras	238,322	104,376	70,323	101,380	87,317
France	21,510	26,220	37,952	26,600	33,200
Other Countries ...	6,896	5,700	260	361	2,584
Total Exports	2,201,799	2,209,023	2,344,380	2,685,849	2,856,143

TRADE.

The trade of the Colony amounted to $6,353,051, as compared with $5,572,526 in the previous year, an increase of about 14 per cent.

Imports.

The articles contributing chiefly to the increase in the value of imports last year were flour, furniture, haberdashery and millinery, hardware and cutlery, hats and caps, preserved milk, rice, coffee, pork, machinery, mahogany and fuel oil. The United Kingdom contributed 19 per cent. of the imports, the United States 38 per cent., and Mexico 31 per cent.

Imports from the United Kingdom have increased by $45,804 and from the United States by $49,301. The most remarkable increase in imports is from Mexico. In 1911 imports from that country were worth $682,055, and in 1912 they rose to $1,100,136. This is due to unusually large importations of mahogany by the C. C. Mengel and Brother Company for re-exportation. Of the total value of imports from Guatemala chicle, or sapodilla gum, accounts for nearly 90 per cent.

The increased importations of manufactured materials from the United Kingdom were in haberdashery and millinery, hardware and cutlery, and machinery. In haberdashery and millinery the increase was from $37,749 to $48,985. In hardware and cutlery the increase was $5,460; in machinery, including locomotives, carriages, and trucks, from $1,598 to $16,580. This increase was due chiefly to tramway material and waggons imported for the Vaca Falls Company. Imports of machinery from the United States increased from $38,000 to nearly $48,000. The quantity of oil fuel imported increased considerably. All oil fuel comes from the United States. Imports of sapodilla gum from Mexico declined from 2,680,506 lbs. to 1,156,710 lbs., while those from Guatemala increased from 843,375 lbs. to 1,252,766 lbs. The total quantity imported was 1,414,405 lbs. less than in 1911. The prices, however, seemed to be slightly higher in 1912. The value of trucks imported increased from $7,055 in 1911 to $19,355 last year. Four-fifths of the total value came from the United States and one-fifth from the United Kingdom. Wearing apparel was imported in about equal quantities from the United Kingdom and the United States. In the previous year imports from the United States were much more than from the United Kingdom. Butter was supplied chiefly by the United States and France. Over 90 per cent. of the value of boots and shoes came from the United States and only 7 per cent. from the United Kingdom. Such articles as bacons and hams, flour, hats and caps, furniture, lard and pork came chiefly from the United States. Particularly noticeable were the increased importations of furniture and hats and caps from the United States. It was not that the imports from the United Kingdom had decreased or been superseded in any way, but that the actual quantities imported increased and the increase came from the United States. Coffee importations from Guatemala and Honduras appear to have increased considerably. This is not a real increase but is due to the classification last year for the first time of all coffee, whether raw or ground, for tariff purposes as coffee. Importations of rice were larger than in previous years. Imports of liquors generally increased, while those of cigars and tobacco fell off slightly. The decrease in imports of coal from the United Kingdom was due to the strikes in England last year. The consequence was that imports from the United States increased from 680 tons in 1911 to 1,400 last year. Cotton-piece goods came in larger quantities from the United States than from the United Kingdom. But compared with the figures for 1911 there is an increase for the

United Kingdom and a decrease for the United States. The importations of drugs and food and drink supplies from the United Kingdom were on the increase, while those from the United States decreased. Preserved milk came in increased quantities from the United States, Germany, and Holland. The importations of soap from the United Kingdom show a falling off, but the consumption was slightly greater. In the previous year a considerable quantity had been imported for re-exportation. The imports of shot and ammunition increased nearly 70 per cent. In gunpowder imports increased from 1,862 lbs. in 1911 to 14,133 lbs. in 1912. The reason for this is that the Liverpool steamers will not bring a less quantity than five tons at one time, and, as they did not bring a shipment in 1911, the imports in 1912 were unusually large. In woollen manufactures the United Kingdom has no competitor. The value of imports, however, fell from $33,611 in 1911 to $27,981 in 1912. In linen goods the United Kingdom also has no competitor.

The chief cause of the successful competition of the United States in those goods in which manufacturers in the United Kingdom might be considered without rivals lies in the quick, frequent and regular intercourse which the Colony enjoys with the United States. This advantage must always be considerable. In the case of boots and shoes, furniture, preserved fruits and meats, stationery, guns and revolvers, hats and caps, cheapness and the enterprise of American commercial travellers play a considerable part in causing these articles to be imported from the United States rather than from the United Kingdom.

The increases and decreases in the value of imports by classes are as follows:—

	$	$
Class I. Live Animals, Food, Drink, &c.—		
1911 … … … …	916,545	
1912 … … … …	1,001,435	
Increase … … …		84,890
Class II. Raw Materials—		
1911 … … … …	786,829	
1912 … … … …	1,247,452	
Increase … … …		460,623
Class III. Manufactured Materials—		
1. Textiles.		
1911 … … … …	415,938	
1912 … … … …	435,665	
Increase … … …		19,727
2. Metals.		
1911 … … … …	174,038	
1912 … … … …	212,645	
Increase … … …		38,607
3. Other.		
1911 … … … …	561,510	
1912 … … … …	598,911	
Increase … … …		37,401
Total increase … …		641,248

Class IV. Coins and Bullion—

	$	$
1911	31,817	
1912	800	
Decrease		31,017
Net Increase		610,231

Customs import duties amounted to $260,837, as against $242,750.11 in 1911 and $237,857.29 in 1910.

Exports.

The chief articles exported, as compared with 1911, are:—

Articles.		1911.	1912.
Bananas	(bunches)	450,365	470,039
Cedar	(feet)	1,543,744	2,683,811
Coconuts	(number)	5,198,899	6,553,539
Logwood	(tons)	3,231	3,622
Mahogany	(feet)	13,020,580	16,019,932
Plantains	(number)	2,853,445	3,341,425
Rubber	(lbs.)	24,192	20,722
Rum	(gallons)	6,611	12,690
Sapodilla Gum ...	(lbs.)	3,219,990	3,309,277
Sponges	(lbs.)	9,822	10,488
Sugar—raw ...	(lbs.)	177,275	109,950
Tortoise-shell ...	(lbs.)	3,367	3,627

Except rubber and sugar all exports increased. In the case of cedar 77 per cent. of the exports were imports re-exported. In the "imports" cedar is not shown separately from mahogany. Of mahogany exported 52 per cent., or more than half, came from outside the Colony. In the case of chicle, or sapodilla gum, 72 per cent. was the produce of Mexico and Guatemala. The United Kingdom took 3,742,564 feet of mahogany, nearly all of which was the produce of the Colony. In 1911 the United Kingdom took 4,360,289 feet. The United States took 12,277,368 feet last year, of which 4,256,258 feet was the produce of the Colony and 8,021,110 feet came from Mexico. The considerable increase in the exports of mahogany is to be ascribed to the hurried operations of an American company who had a concession in Mexico to get out all the wood they could before their concession expired. Of the coconuts exported about 15 per cent. went to the United Kingdom and the remainder to the United States. Practically all the chicle went to the United States. The prices obtained for that article in Belize last year varied from 27 cents a lb. to 29 cents a lb.

Taking the total value of all the exports from the Colony, over 60 per cent. was the produce of other countries. The value of rum exported was $8,358; nearly all of it went to Honduras.

Excise.

Rum was made at eight stills during 1912, situated as follows:—six in Corozal District and two in Orange Walk District. A new still was erected in the Cayo District at the end of the year, but did not commence operations until 1913. The output for the last five years in proof gallons was:—

Year.	Gallons made.	Gallons exported.
1908	57,964	3,123
1909	62,708	2,672
1910	46,714	3,826
1911	48,632	6,611
1912	63,701	12,690

Shipping.

The number and tonnage of sailing and steamships that entered and cleared in 1911 and 1912, together with their nationality, is as follows:—

Entered.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam ...	1911	67	69,845	134	3,035	238	208,294
	1912	76	84,468	153	4,753	227	213,966
Sailing ...	1911	426	9,956	73	1,812	114	1,870
	1912	430	9,069	117	2,480	127	1,924

Cleared.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam ...	1911	68	67,300	140	3,096	238	207,728
	1912	58	82.619	157	3,547	232	213,983
Sailing ...	1911	435	9,797	74	1,814	113	1,815
	1912	425	8,854	120	2,373	142	2,028

The "others" were almost entirely Norwegian ships in the case of steamers and Honduranean in the case of sailing ships.

The total shipping in tons inwards and outwards for five years is shown below:—

Year.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1908	254,778	252,665	507,443
1909	350,517	346,807	697,342
1910	491,111	488,316	979,427
1911	295,817	292,550	588,367
1912	316,660	313,404	630,064

The unusually high tonnage of 1910 was caused by the United Fruit Company running a larger class of steamers than in previous years for several months in the year in carrying the mails to and from New Orleans. These steamers began to run in the latter part of 1909, which caused the figures for that year also to be above the normal. In 1912 the tonnage entered *with cargoes* was 220,766, of which 214,892 came in steamers. The tonnage cleared *with cargoes* was 231,641, of which 222,222 were sent away in steamers.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-five Ordinances were passed. None of these were disallowed. Ordinance No. 20 of 1911, relating to currency notes, was disallowed early in 1912.

No. 2 provides for the making of rules for the identification of prisoners and for the maintenance of good order and discipline among prisoners.

No. 3 prevents the introduction of diseases of plants.

No. 7 amends the Belize Town Board Ordinance of 1911 chiefly in so far as the election or appointment of members of the Board is concerned.

No. 8 amends the Measurers of Wood Ordinance of 1910 by giving the Surveyor General power to examine a person desirous to act as a licensed measurer, without the assistance of a licensed measurer as assessor, or satisfying the Governor in Council that he cannot obtain such assistance. The scale of fees chargeable by measurers is also amended by this Ordinance.

No. 12 provides for the punishment of persons sending through the post explosive or other dangerous matter.

No. 13, relating to the Tariff, has already been referred to.

No. 16 is to regulate and encourage Benefit Building Societies. Since the passing of this Ordinance a society has been incorporated and has started operations.

No. 23 provides for the speedy and safe exit of persons from places of public entertainment and from churches. No place can be used for such purposes without a licence from the Governor. In consequence of this Ordinance improvements have been made in all the public halls.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created consisting of the Governor as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms

(1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1912 was $18,364.59, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	15,579.98
Grants on account of pupil teachers	1,201.50
Grants for needlework	225.00
Grants for agriculture	47.50
Bonuses on examination results, 1911 ...	1,060.61
Building grants...	250.00
	18,364.59

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $35,398.77. Of this sum the Government contributed $20,494.70, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	18,364.58
Expenses of administration... ...	2,130.12

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (3,294) was $10.74. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the two preceding years:—

—	1910.	1911.	1912.
	$	$	$
Paid by Government...	6·27	6·07	6·22
School Fees	·90	·92	·98
Voluntary Contributions	3·26	3·35	3·54
Total	10·43	10·34	10·74

The average attendances during 1910, 1911, and 1912 were 3,173, 3,312, and 3,294 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 45. There were 44 in 1910 and 46 in 1911.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 4,764, as compared with 4,641 in 1910 and 4,725 in 1911.

There were also in operation 11 unaided primary schools, with 276 in average daily attendance.

The average yearly receipt of fees in the schools of the several denominations during the last three years, per unit of average attendance, are shown in the following table:—

Schools : Denomination.	Average Attendances.			Total School Fees.			Receipts of School Fees per unit of average attendance.		
	1910.	1911.	1912.	1910.	1911.	1912	1910.	1911.	1912.
				$	$	$	$	$	$
Church of England.	640	627	649	791·01	882·50	949·91	1·24	1·40	1·46
Roman Catholic	1,406	1,589	1,569	993·97	1,150·09	1,201·84	·71	·72	·77
Wesleyan ...	775	730	732	717·60	720·60	741·29	·93	·96	1·01
Baptist ...	207	208	202	180·40	181·35	194·60	·87	·87	·96
Non-Denominational.	145	158	142	158·55	118·78	146·83	1·09	·75	1·03
Total ...	3,173	3,312	3,294	2,841·53	3,035·32	3,234·47	·89	·92	·98

The smallest proportion of fees is received by the Roman Catholic Schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

The sum of $230.31 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1912, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Seven candidates passed the Preliminary and four the Junior examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor-house.

The following table shows the number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1912 :—

Institutions.	Remaining at beginning of 1912.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remained at end of 1912.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital ...	30	636	559	67	40	38·87
Corozal Hospital ...	6	158	146	18	—	5·89
Orange Walk Hospital	4	99	93	9	1	4·50
Stann Creek Hospital	—	108	—	—	—	5·20
Punta Gorda Hospital	6	153	—	8	—	7·20
Belize :—						
Lunatic Asylum ...	63	11	2	3	69	67·40
Poor-house ...	33	14	1	14	32	32·29

Savings Bank.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1912, was 738. Deposits amounted to $48,341.28, and withdrawals to $39,763.50. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1912 was $101,134.54.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $87,000.00.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 105 non-commissioned officers and men—two over the establishment. During the year 20 recruits were obtained from Barbados. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in Belize Prison, from 1908 to 1912:—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1908	342	61·30
1909	297	66·01
1910	323	83·27
1911	355	73·55
1912	439	72·62

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 40 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There were no deaths from natural causes. There was no execution.

The number of offences reported to the police and magistrates during the year 1912 was 1,169, or 19 less than in 1911. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,102, or 10 more than in 1911.

Informations were filed against 77 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 47 cases and for the prisoner in 17. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in 10 cases. Three cases were left over.

There was one conviction for manslaughter. Twenty-three convictions were obtained for offences against the person and 14 for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 40,809, consisting of 20,526 males and 20,283 females.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past ten years of the causes of death in the Colony:—

—	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Diseases :										
Malarial Fever	8·6	8·1	9·3	9·6	7·0	6·1	7·1	5·1	6·6	5·3
Dysentery	1·0	·9	1·3	·9	·7	·8	1·0	1·0	1·2	1·0
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	·068	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	—	·173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary ...	1·3	1·2	1·3	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·3	1·4	1·4
Nervous Diseases ...	2·7	2·1	1·9	1·9	2·6	·2	1·8	·9	·7	·4
Circulatory Diseases ...	·4	·5	·6	·4	2·7	·9	·7	1·0	1·5	1·0
Respiratory Diseases ...	1·6	1·4	2·0	4·7	1·8	1·1	1·5	2·5	3·0	1·7
Digestive Diseases ...	1·7	2·1	2·8	2·0	3·1	3·1	2·8	2·8	2·8	2·1

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1908 to 1912, inclusive, according to their race classification:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births. 1908-12.
Indian	72·40
Carib	53·95
Negro	55·76
Other races	60·37

The birth-rate was 40·530, and the mortality 24·872 per 1,000.

The number of illegitimate births was 670 out of a total of 1,654, or 40·51 per cent.

Four hundred and two marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·85 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years:—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1908... ...	1,590	36·7	406	1,010	23·3
1909... ...	1,634	37·0	412	964	21·8
1910... ...	1,665	36·9	385	1,052	23·3
1911... ...	1,730	42·4	412	1,012	24·8
1912... ...	1,654	40·5	402	1,015	24·9

During 1912 the excess of male over female births was four; and of male over female deaths 97.

The average rainfall for the ten years 1903-1912 in Belize was 89·14 inches; the maximum—130·93 inches—being in 1911, and the minimum—63·76 inches—in 1910. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell.

Comparative return.

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1903	70·90	118
1904	87·00	119
1905	106·42	109
1906	99·32	102
1907	91·17	80
1908	80·00?	80?
1909	64·49	91
1910	63·76	124
1911	130·93	166
1912	97·45	144

Summary of Meteorological Observations, taken at Belize, for the year 1912.

Months.	Barometer corrected.		Relative Humidity.		Shade temperature.		Terrestrial radiation.		Rain.	
	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	No. of days.	Inches.
			°	°	°	°				
January ...	30·309	29·962	97	64	83	60	—	—	13	16·20
February...	30·389	29·919	91	62	86	61	—	—	2	N.A.A.
March ...	30·184	29·859	94	72	86	72	—	—	8	3·215
April ...	30·174	29·884	85	68	88	73	—	—	2	·10
May ...	30·164	29·902	97	77	89	74	—	—	10	8·40
June ...	30·132	29·855	94	72	90	72	—	—	17	8·70
July ...	30·165	29·973	94	75	89	75	—	—	15	10·225
August ...	30·130	29·973	91	75	89	75	—	—	16	10·370
September	30·082	29·865	94	72	90	72	—	—	11	8·10
October ...	30·041	29·818	94	72	90	72	—	—	15	7·285
November	30·213	29·915	97	71	85	66	—	—	10	9·330
December	30·219	29·967	97	77	85	69	—	—	25	15·525
Average Monthly.	30·183	29·907	93	71	87	70	—	—	144	97·450

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $17,814, as compared with $17,703 in 1911, showing an increase of $111.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $17,083, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $10,000, making a total expenditure of $27,083. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $5,769.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1908 to 1912 were as follows:—

—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Ordinary Letters	188,603	200,838	216,716	225,818	240,960
Registered Articles	9.725	10,545	11,258	11,246	11,680
Postcards	24,547	23.560	22,756	22,468	18,973
Newspapers, Books, &c. ...	114,817	152,459	178,526	180,841	180,378
Postal Parcels	7,618	8,500	10,945	12,235	12,435

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

—	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.
Ordinary Letters	104,263	106,545	99,757	92,815	87,485
Registered Articles	4,416	6,364	4,344	3,998	3,739
Postcards	1,940	2,019	1,446	1,600	1,237
Newspapers, Books and Parcels	15,799	—	—	—	—
Newspapers and Books ...	—	16,192	13,015	10,870	10,074
Parcels	—	959	1,009	1,144	1,019

The following is a comparative table of the telegraph and telephone transactions for the years 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, and 1912:—

Year.	Telephone Calls.	Telegrams.	Total.
1908	11,848	16,036	27,884
1909	10,087	16,595	26,682
1910	12,850	17,560	30,410
1911	16,054	17,124	33,178
1912	16,554	24,270	40,824

The working expenses of the system amounted to $11,278, and the receipts to $10,901.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The revenue and trade returns in this report indicate that the year has been one of increased prosperity.

Both banana and coconut cultivation have been carried on energetically, and exports of these articles have been larger than in any previous year. In the United States of America we have, fortunately, a market capable of taking all we can produce. Exporting cohune nuts bids fair to become one of the principal industries of the Colony. Proposals have been made on behalf of three companies in England to lease large areas of Crown lands for the purpose of collecting and utilising the nuts. The high price of mahogany and good wages offered by cutters to labourers retarded to some extent the agricultural development of the Colony, and, in consequence of the scarcity of agricultural produce, the cost of living is high, for a tropical country.

The Colony was fairly tranquil from a police point of view, with the exception of some disturbances in the Cayo district, which ended, unfortunately, in the murder of a non-commissioned officer of police while acting in the execution of his duty. The murderer was shot in 1913 while resisting arrest.

The Town Board Election Day, the 22nd November, was marked as a public holiday. Great enthusiasm prevailed and a healthy interest was shown in the proceedings.

In the same month the Royal Bank of Canada purchased the business of the Bank of British Honduras and continued that bank's operations.

The town of Benque Viejo was brought into telephonic communication with Belize in October. Owing to heavy weather and swampy country it is difficult to keep the lines in order in some parts of the Colony.

An Inland Money Order Service, which was very much needed, was established on the 1st of February.

The Anti-Tuberculosis League, to which reference was made in the report for 1910, was enabled to open a small hospital near the Public Hospital. Efforts have also been made to disseminate a knowledge of the disease and the means for controlling its spread.

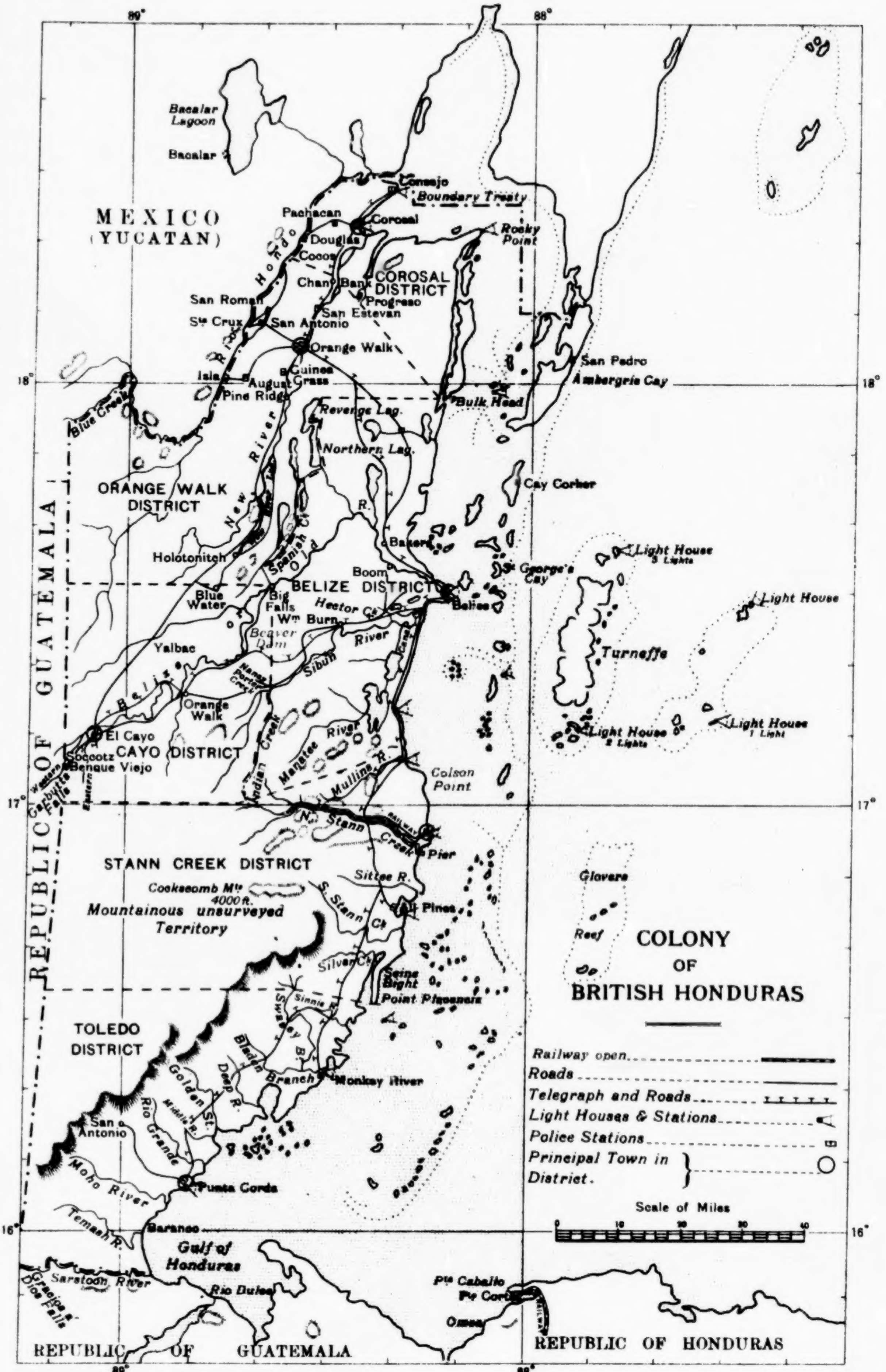
The health of the Colony has been good. There has been no epidemic except a slight one of dysentery at Ambergris Cay.

The year was employed on the Stann Creek Railway chiefly in making good damage to the permanent way caused by the unusual floods of 1911. The usual service for the conveyance of bananas went on uninterruptedly all the time.

Dredging operations on the bar of the Belize River were carried on for most of the year. It is now possible for vessels drawing five feet of water to go in and out of the inner harbour without difficulty. The spoil dredged is deposited on Fort George, where a large area of swampy land has been reclaimed—land that will be of great value to the Government in the course of time.

A site near the barracks was selected and reclaimed, by means of the dredger, for a new lunatic asylum. Satisfactory work was carried on in erecting reinforced concrete buildings.

W. L. McKinstry,
Acting Colonial Secretary.



COLONY
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°
MEXICO
(YUCATAN)
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Rocky Point
Hondo
Chan
Bank
COROSAL DISTRICT
Progreso
San Roman
San Estevan
Sta Crux
San Antonio
Orange Walk
Guinea Grass
Isla
August
Pine Ridge
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bulk Head
Blue Creek
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
Cay Corker
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
New River
R.
Spanish Ck
Old
Bakers
Light House
3 Lights
St George's Cay
Holotonitch
Boom
Blue Water
Big Falls
BELIZE DISTRICT
Belize
Light House
Hector Ck
Wm Burn
Beaver Dam
River
Yalbac
Turneffe
Sibun
Mango Porters Creek
Belize
Orange Walk
El Cayo
CAYO DISTRICT
Indian Creek
Manatee
River
Light House
2 Lights
Light House
1 Light
Socootz
Benque Viejo
Western
Eastern
Gasbutts Falls
Mullins R.
Colson Point
N. Stann
Creek
Railway
Pier
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Sittee R.
Glovers
Cockscomb Mts
4000 ft.
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
S. Stann Ck
All Pines
Reef
Silver Ck
Seine Bight
Point Placenaia
Sinnie
Swasey B.
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bladen
Branch
Monkey River
Golden St.
Deep R.
Rio Grande
Middle R.
San Antonio
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
Gracias a Dios Falls
Rio Dulce
Pta Caballo
Pto Cortes
Omoa
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
Railway open
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District.
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept: 1911.
C.O.No 16.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1918.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
751	East Africa Protectorate	1911–1912
752	St. Lucia	,,
753	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1911
754	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1911–1912
755	Gibraltar	1912
756	St. Helena	,,
757	Weihaiwei	,,
758	Ceylon	1911–1912
759	Sierra Leone	1912
760	Seychelles	,,
761	Somaliland	1912–1913
762	Hong Kong	1912
763	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
764	Falkland Islands	,,
765	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
766	Bahamas	,,
767	Gambia	,,
768	Fiji	,,
769	Basutoland	1912–1913
770	Gold Coast	1912
771	Ashanti	,,
772	Nyasaland	1912–1913
773	Bechuanaland Protectorate	,,
774	British Solomon Islands	,,
775	Colonial Survey Committee	,,
776	Tongan Islands Protectorate	1911–1913
777	Swaziland	1912–1913
778	Imperial Institute	1912
779	Barbados	1912–1913
780	British Guiana	,,
781	Entomological Research Committee	,,
782	Southern Nigeria	1912
783	Jamaica	1912–1913

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
77	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement Fund.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.

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1914.

COLONIAL REPORTS--ANNUAL.

No. 827.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1913.

(For Report for 1912 see No. 781.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
January, 1915.

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1915.

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No. 827.

BRITISH HONDURAS

(For Report for 1912 see No. 784.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Belize,
24th November, 1914.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Annual Report on the Blue Book for 1913.

I have, &c.,

WILFRED COLLET,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(C117.) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 1.15. B.&F.,Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR 1913.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1913. The other returns are for the calendar year 1913.

On the 1st April, 1912, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $342,516.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1911–12 and 1912–13, under each head of revenue and service respectively :—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the Year 1911–12.	Amount collected in the Year 1912–13.
	$	$
1 Customs	278,807	297,643
2 Light and Wharf Dues ..	9,491	9,895
3 Internal Taxation	87,764	87,662
4 Revenues of Government Property	18,444	27,186
5 Fees of Court or Office, &c. ..	23,839	22,618
6 Post Office	17,875	18,693
7 Telegraphs	9,424	10,696
8 Interest..	14,538	18,910
9 Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	120	119
10 Miscellaneous Receipts ..	2,067	2,401
11 Railway Receipts	15,158	20,054
Total Ordinary Revenue	477,527	515,877
12 Sale of Crown Lands	9,942	23,275
13 Casual Revenue	346	41
14 Supply of Coin..	10,500	1,500
15 Reimbursements from Loan Funds on account of Expenditure on Railway Construction and Loan Works	703,593	34,550
Total Revenue ..	1,201,908	575,243
Local Revenue :—		
Belize District	27,150	35,043
Corozal District..	3,522	3,975
Orange Walk District	1,888	2,048
Stann Creek District	3,400	4,553
Toledo District	2,061	2,058
Cayo District	2,405	1,891
Total Local Revenue	40,426	49,568
Grand Total	1,242,334	624,811

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure	Expenditure 1911–12.	Expenditure 1912–13.
	$	$
1 Public Debt	38,370	43,152
2 Pensions	11,077	10,508
2*a* Compassionate Allowance ..	1,500	204
3 Governor	10,905	11,729
4 Colonial Secretary's Department	9,031	9,837
4*a* Commissioners of Currency ..	67	993
5 Treasury and Customs ..	22,857	24,423
6 Audit Department	3,080	3,065
7 Post Office and Telegraph Department	28,619	27,659
8 Judicial Department	16,857	16,124
9 District Commissioners ..	15,220	14,343
10 Police Department	42,232	47,253
11 Volunteer Force	6,923	8,000
12 Prison Department	14,451	14,080
13 Medical Department	39,264	40,830
14 Central Board of Health and Quarantine	831	1,198
15 Education	20,658	21,229
16 Surveyor General's Department	18,423	20,703
17 Botanic Station	2,425	2,439
18 Miscellaneous	8,999	8,863
19 Stann Creek Railway	32,560	42,937
20 Lighthouses	5,160	5,393
21 Public Works Department ..	15,971	17,704
22 Public Works and Telegraph Recurrent	30,613	32,830
Total Ordinary Expenditure	396,093	425,496
23 Public Works Extraordinary ..	32,743	58,494
24 Railway Extraordinary ..	48,955	92,954
25 Miscellaneous Extraordinary ..	12,077	779
26 Loan Works to be constructed under Ordinance No. 2 of 1911	42,254	33,408
Total Expenditure	532,122	611,130
Local Expenditure :—		
Belize District	28,048*	31,367
Corozal District	3,928	3,608
Orange Walk District	2,417†	2,586
Stann Creek District	4,035	4,091
Toledo District	2,194	1,953
Cayo District	2,437	2,176
Total Local Expenditure	43,059	45,781
Grand Total	575,182	656,912

*Including landing place and pen for cattle, $808.

†Including new vat for market, $300; fencing and laying out new cemetery, $162.

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years, 1908–09 to 1912–13 :—

Year.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.
	$	$
1908–09	360,915	535,979
1909–10	395,855	592,120
1910–11	459,295	542,810
1911–12	1,201,908*	532,123
1912–13	575,243	611,131

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1913, in respect of its assets and liabilities, as compared with the position on the 31st March, 1912, is shown in the following table :—

General Revenue.

	1912.	1913.
	$	$
Assets	557,544	508,434
Liabilities	215,027	201,805
Excess of Assets	342,517	306,629

At the end of the calendar year 1913 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $330,946, of which $184,303 was invested.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st December, 1913 :—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures)	97,200
Railway and Public Works Loan, 1911	777,600
Total	946,415

The loans of 1885, 1887 and 1891 were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest on the loans of 1885 and 1887 and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

---

*Includes $703,593 reimbursed from loan funds on account of expenditure on railway and other public works.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments on the 31st December, 1913:—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s.*)	26,948
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000) ..	32,112
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923, £20,000) ..	48,848
Total Sinking Funds	107,908

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $158,916. There is also a bronze cent. piece and nickel-bronze five-cents piece, whose issues amount to $4,000 and $2,500 respectively.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $5, $10, $50 and $100. The $50 and $100 notes have been withdrawn from circulation.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st December, 1913, was $149,754.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1909 to 1913:—

Imports.

	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ..	551,840	600,889	620,961	666,765	700,859
Colonies	15,133	25,380	24,988	45,654	38,913
United States ..	1,135,145	1,254,480	1,278,219	1,327,550	1,567,582
Germany	41,861	40,163	51,113	55,072	52,246
France	24,386	31,984	36,077	43,813	32,830
Mexico	755,126	670,387	682,055	1,100,136	489,399
Guatemala	87,825	114,434	95,634	145,269	106,603
Honduras	65,174	55,286	63,513	77,039	161,890
Other Countries ..	27,758	26,214	34,117	35,610	35,046
Total Imports ..	2,704,248	2,819,217	2,886,677	3,496,908	3,185,368

Exports.

	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
	$	$	$	$	$
United Kingdom ..	355,840	329,490	335,465	309,336	381,788
Colonies	—	—	—	—	18,233
United States ..	1,503,249	1,656,271	1,920,989	2,249,732	2,376,685
Mexico	171,230	228,292	288,268	127,636	225,693
Guatemala	42,408	21,792	12,786	46,338	16,415
Honduras	104,376	70,323	101,380	87,317	76,009
France	26,220	37,952	26,600	33,200	21,996
Other Countries ..	5,700	260	361	2,584	9,406
Total Exports .	2,209,023	2,344,380	2,685,849	2,856,143	3,126,225

Trade.

The trade of the Colony amounted to $6,311,593, as compared with $6,353,051 in the previous year, a decrease of about ·65 per cent.

Imports.

In the case of imports the basis of the values is the invoice value plus the cost of packages, but does not include freight and insurance. In the case of exports it is the value as declared by exporters, excluding the cost of handling at the port of shipment.

Imports show a decline of $311,540 in value as compared with that of the previous year, which is due to the fact that the quantity of mahogany imported from Mexico dropped from 9,945,448 feet in 1912 to 3,129,680 feet in 1913.

Imports from the United Kingdom have increased steadily each year since 1909 and were $65,914 more in value last year than in 1912. At the same time imports from the United States have also increased considerably in value. Imports from Honduras more than doubled what they were in 1912, and chiefly consisted of coconuts. Imports from Guatemala and Mexico fell off to the extent of $649,403. This was due to the decline in mahogany importations.

The values of the principal articles imported in 1912 and 1913 were :—

Articles.	1913.	1912.
Apparel (wearing) ..	$ 66,145 ..	$ 67,105
Boots and shoes	120,993 ..	94,855
Cotton-piece goods	215,081 ..	216,656
Flour	106,542 ..	118,722
Hardware and Cutlery ..	82,934 ..	75,317
Machinery	35,794 ..	53,516
Mahogany	210,262 ..	797,750
Sapodilla Gum	351,719 ..	418,500

Increases in imports are noticeable in bacons and hams, salted meats, butter, boots and shoes, cheese, preserved fruit and vegetables, guns, rifles, haberdashery, hardware and cutlery, jewellery and watches, lard, condensed milk, preserved meats, paints, perfumery, rope, lumber, mineral oil, sugar, leaf tobacco, coconuts, and fuel oil.

Decreases occurred in flour, hats and caps, corn, oils, other than mineral and fuel oils, rice, ammunition and shot, soap, chicle, and mahogany.

There was no evidence of British goods being superseded in any way by foreign goods. The same goods are very often imported largely from the United States, but the imports from the United Kingdom have not in any way decreased. On the contrary such articles as butter, boots, candles, confectionery, and clothing were imported much more extensively from Great Britain last year than they used to be five years ago.

Increases and decreases in the value of imports for 1912 and 1913 by classes were :—

Class I.—Live animals, food, drink, &c.

	$	
1912	1,001,435	
1913	1,087,519	
Increase		$ 86,084

Class III.—Manufactured Materials.

i. Textiles.

1912	435,665	
1913	454,738	
Increase		$ 19,073

iii. Other.

1912	598,911	
1913	1,076,031	
Increase		$ 477,120

Class IV.—Coin and Bullion.

1912	800	
1913	5,889	
Increase		$ 5,089
Total Increases		$ 587,366

Class II.—Raw Materials.

1912	1,247,452	
1913	375,986	
Decrease		$ 871,466

Class III.—Manufactured Materials.

1912	.. .. ..	212,645
1913	.. .. ..	185,205
Decrease	.. .. ..	$ 27,440
Total Decreases	.. ..	$ 898,906
Net Decrease..	.. ..	$ 311,540

Customs Import Duties amounted to $288,256, as against $260,837 in 1912 and $242,750 in 1911.

Exports.

The chief articles exported, as compared with 1912, were :—

Articles.		1912	1913
Bananas	(bunches)	470,039	617,537
Cacao	(lbs.)	10,400	25,171
Cedar	(feet)	2,683,811	1,330,237
Coconuts	(number)	6,553,539	6,352,630
Logwood	(tons)	3,622	2,812
Mahogany..	(feet)	16,019,932	15,027,520
Plantains	(number)	3,341,425	3,300,450
Rubber	(lbs.)	20,722	12,946
Rum	(gallons)	12,690	14,881
Sapodilla Gum	(lbs.)	3,309,277	3,163,129
Sponges	(lbs.)	10,488	1,521
Sugar (raw)	(lbs.)	109,950	122,025
Tortoise shell	(lbs.)	3,627	5,337

Bananas, cacao, rum, sugar, and tortoise shell were the only products which were exported in larger quantities than in 1912.

All the bananas exported went to the United States, the rum to the Republic of Honduras, the sugar to Mexico, and the tortoise shell to the United Kingdom.

Of the quantity of mahogany and cedar exported over five million feet were the produce of Mexico and Guatemala, the greater part of which had been imported into the Colony in the previous year and does not appear in the imports for 1913.

Foreign coconuts exported numbered [illegible],000.

It is pleasing to note that 938 barrels of grape-fruit and eight barrels of oranges were exported to the United States.

Of the exports of sapodilla gum only 1,005,833 pounds were the produce of the Colony, the remainder coming from Mexico and Guatemala.

Excise.

Rum was made at ten distilleries, nine situated on the sugar farms in the northern districts and one at El Cayo.

Their output and exportation for the last five years were :—

Year.	Gallons made.	Gallons exported.
1909	62,708	2,672
1910	46,714	3,826
1911	48,632	6,611
1912	63,701	12,690
1913	82,787	14,811

It will be seen that both the quantity made and the quantity exported have increased very considerably in the last five years.

Shipping.

A comparison of the nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1912 and 1913 is shewn in the following tables :—

Entered.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam	1912	76	84,468	153	4,753	227	213,966
	1913	132	255,403	143	2,076	168	136,880
Sailing	1912	430	9,069	117	2,480	127	1,924
	1913	462	9,223	107	2,474	108	1,766

Cleared.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam	1912	58	82,619	157	3,547	232	213,983
	1913	131	252,357	143	2,001	178	140,745
Sailing	1912	425	8,854	120	2,373	142	2,028
	1913	439	9,520	123	2,796	117	1,617

The " others " were almost entirely Norwegian ships in the case of steamers, and Honduranean in the case of sailing ships.

The total shipping in tons inwards and outwards for five years is shewn below :—

Year.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1909	350,517	346,807	697,342
1910	491,111	488,316	979,427
1911	295,817	292,550	588,367
1912	316,660	313,404	630,064
1913	407,822	409,036	816,858

The tonnage entered *with cargoes* in 1913 was 272,130, of which 265,891 tons came as steamer tonnage.

The tonnage cleared with cargoes was 256,479 of which 248,22 tons went away as steamer tonnage.

Early in the year compulsory pilotage was abolished by "The Pilotage Ordinance, 1913." The passing of this Ordinance removed a considerable amount of friction that was always cropping up between pilots and ship-masters.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Forty Ordinances were passed. None of these were disallowed.

No. 2 abolishes compulsory pilotage in the Colony and makes other provisions in lieu thereof.

No. 8 provides for a more scientific mode of testing petroleum so as to ascertain the temperature at which it will give off inflammable vapour.

No. 9 provides for the appointment of a Commissioner to consolidate, prepare, and publish a new and revised edition of the laws of the Colony.

This will supply a long-felt want by consolidating the existing law, and removing a large mass of obsolete legislation from the statute book.

No. 13 amends the law relating to the export duty on mahogany, cedar and logwood, and extends the definition of the word "Colony" to include the territorial waters of the Colony.

No. 17 regulates the sale and importation of milk, and lays down regulations regarding preserved cream.

No. 24 amends the law regarding labour by providing that labourers for employment in British Honduras shall not be engaged in or brought from foreign countries without the permission of the Governor.

No. 29 provides for the summary adjudication of small causes in the Supreme Court.

No. 30 provides for the regulation of wireless telegraphy, and in particular it gives the Governor power, in cases of emergency, to make further regulations with a view to the complete control by Government over the transmission of wireless messages.

No. 36 provides for the licensing of persons keeping and selling firearms and ammunition.

No. 38 relates to the expulsion of undesirable aliens, amending and strengthening the principal Ordinance of 1910, by giving the Governor power, if he thinks fit, to have an undesirable alien arrested forthwith instead of requiring him to leave the Colony within a fixed time.

No. 40 amends the law relating to arms, ammunition, and military and naval stores, giving the Governor in Council power by proclamation to prohibit the sale in the Colony, and the importation into the Colony, of any war material, and also to seize any war material reasonably suspected of being intended to be carried coastwise in the Colony, exported, or sold in contravention of any Proclamation dealing with the exportation of arms, ammunition, and military and naval stores.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created consisting of the Governor as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1913 was $19,076.87, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	16,380.38
Grants on account of pupil teachers	1,111.08
Grants for needlework	205.00
Grants for agriculture	9.00
Bonuses on examination results, 1912	1,179.65
Building grants	111.76
Special grants on account of rainy days ..	80.00
	$19,076.87

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $39,213.23. Of this sum the Government contributed $21,202·36, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	19,076.87
Expenses of administration	2,125.49

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (3,543) was $11·06. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the preceding year:—

	1912. $	1913. $
Paid by Government	6.22	5.98
School Fees	.98	.97
Voluntary Contributions.. ..	3.54	4.11
Total ..	10.74	11.06

The average attendances during 1911, 1912 and 1913 were 3,312, 3,294 and 3,543 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 53. There were 46 in 1911 and 45 in 1912.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,201, as compared with 4,725 in 1911 and 4,764 in 1912.

There were also in operation seven unaided primary schools, with 206 in average daily attendance.

The smallest proportion of fees is received by the Roman Catholic schools. One reason for this is that they are attended by the greater portion of the Carib children and all the Indian children who go to school, the majority of whose parents are in poor circumstances and unable to pay school fees regularly.

The sum of $912.00 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1913, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. One candidate passed the Senior, two the Junior, and thirteen the Preliminary Examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1913 :—

Institutions.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital	42·85
Corozal Hospital	7·74
Orange Walk Hospital	4·20
Stann Creek Hospital	4·99
Punta Gorda Hospital	6·4
Belize :—	
Lunatic Asylum	69·15
Poor-house	28·89

Savings Bank.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1913, was 900. Deposits amounted to $60,480.13. and withdrawals to $55,408.44. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1913 was $106,206.23.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $98,000.00.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 103 non-commissioned officers and men—the full establishment. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in Belize Prison, from 1909 to 1913 :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1909	297	66·01
1910	323	83·27
1911	355	73·55
1912	439	72·62
1913	544	64·47

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 36 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There were two deaths from natural causes. There were two executions.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year 1913 was 1,262, or 93 more than in 1912. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,141, or 39 more than in 1912.

Informations were filed against 52 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 29 cases and for the prisoner in 12. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in 11 cases.

There were two convictions for murder and one conviction for manslaughter. Fifteen convictions were obtained for offences against the person and nine for offences against property.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 41,170, consisting of 20,689 males and 20,481 females.

The average population of the whole Colony to the square mile was 4·83. The most populous district is Belsize, with a population of 9·49 to the square mile, while the most thinly populated district is Toledo, with a population of only 1·97 to the square mile.

The following table prepared by the Registrar-General furnishes comparative statistics for the past 10 years of the causes of death in the Colony per 1,000 of the estimated mean population :—

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Diseases :—										
Malarial Fever	8·1	9·3	9·6	7·0	6·1	7·1	5·1	6·6	5.3	5·8
Dysentery	·9	1·3	·9	·7	·8	1·0	1·0	1·2	1.0	·7
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	·068	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever	—	·173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary	1·2	1·3	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·3	1·4	1.4	1·6
Nervous Diseases	2·1	1·9	1·9	2·6	·2	1·8	·9	·7	.4	2·1
Circulatory Diseases	·5	·6	·4	2·7	·9	·7	1·0	1·5	1.0	1·1
Respiratory Diseases	1·4	2·0	4·7	1·8	1·1	1·5	2·5	3·0	1.7	4·2
Digestive Diseases	2·1	2·8	2·0	3·1	3·1	2·8	2·8	2·8	2·1	2·8
Urinary Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	·7	1·1	·8	·7
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7·2
Total Death Rate	24·9	32·9	29·9	22·2	23·3	21·8	23·3	25·0	24·9	26·2

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1908–1912, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1913 :—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1908–12.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1913.
Indian	72·40	93·98
Carib	53·95	60·13
Negro	55·76	50·00
Other races	60·37	64·27

The birth-rate was 40·151 and the mortality 26·233 per thousand.

The number of illegitimate birth swas 709 out of a total of 1,653, or 42·90 per cent.

Four hundred and seventeen marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·90 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years :—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1909	1,634	37·0	412	964	21·8
1910	1,665	36·9	385	1,052	23·3
1911	1,730	42·4	412	1,012	24·8
1912	1,654	40·5	402	1,015	24·9
1913	1,653	40·15	417	1,080	26·2

During 1913 the excess of male over female births was three ; and of male over female deaths six.

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1904–1913 in Belize was 94·72 inches ; the maximum (130·93 inches) being in 1911, and the minimum (63·76 inches) in 1910. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell, and 1913 the largest. The latter year, it may be pointed out, approximated very closely to the year 1911, both in the amount of rainfall and as regards the number of days on which rain actually fell. The average number of days on which rain fell during the years 1904–1913 was 118.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1904	87·00	119
1905	106·42	109
1906	99·32	102
1907	91·17	80
1908	80·00 (?)	80 (?)
1909	64·49	91
1910	63·76	124
1911	130·93	166
1912	97·45	144
1913	126·73	167

Summary of meteorological observations, taken at Belize, for the year 1913 :—

Months.	Barometer Corrected.		Relative Humidity.		Shade Temperature		Rain.	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	No. of days	Inches
January ..	30·196	29·899	89°	67°	94°	77°	15	10·275
February ..	30·194	29·905	86°	66°	94°	75°	7	1·80
March ..	30·186	29·978	83°	65°	90°	74°	5	·60
April ..	30·190	29·967	87°	67°	94°	69°	11	8·275
May ..	30·112	29·915	87°	71°	97°	72°	10	7·155
June ..	30·073	29·899	89°	74°	97°	72°	12	7·10
July ..	30·236	29·907	88°	74°	97°	75°	16	13·10
August ..	30·083	29·922	88°	72°	97°	72°	17	6·20
September	30·026	29·853	89°	75°	97°	72°	13	13·525
October ..	30·094	29·845	88°	70°	97°	70°	19	30·175
November	30·208	29·887	83°	64°	97°	71°	23	15·730
December	30·275	29·867	88°	63°	97°	69°	19	12·800
Average ..	30·156	29·903	87·0	69·0	95·8	72·4	167	126·735

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $28,892, as compared with $17,814 in 1912, showing an increase of $11,078, caused by several large purchases of the new stamps.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $14,202, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $9,950, making a total expenditure of $24,152. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $3,117·29.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1909 to 1913 were as follows :—

	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Ordinary Letters.. ..	200,838	216,716	225,818	240,960	259,683
Registered Articles ..	10,545	11,258	11,246	11,680	—
Postcards	23,560	22,756	22,468	18,973	19,881
Newspapers, Books, &c. ..	152,459	178,526	180,841	180,378	152,191
Postal Parcels	8,500	10,945	12,235	12,435	16,543

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Ordinary Letters.. ..	106,545	99,757	92,815	87,485	92,224
Registered Articles ..	6,364	4,344	3,998	3,739	—
Postcards	2,019	1,446	1,600	1,237	1,307
Newspapers and Books ..	16,192	13,015	10,870	10,074	12,064
Parcels	959	1,009	1,144	1,019	1,312

The working expenses of the telegraph and telephone system amounted to $12,486, and the receipts to $10,987.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Colonel Sir Eric Swayne, K.C.M.G., Governor of the Colony, retired early in the year and was succeeded by Mr. Wilfred Collet, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary, who had previously administered the government on several occasions. Mr. Collet assumed the office of Governor in May.

The Legislative Council was increased by the addition of two Unofficial and two Official Members, bringing the number of Unofficial Members up to seven and of Official Members up to five, still retaining the Unofficial majority as hitherto.

The year was unusually wet, in fact the rainfall was almost the heaviest for the last ten years, but the public health was good and no serious epidemic of any kind occurred. Small pox has not been in the Colony since 1909, and there have been no cases of yellow fever since 1905. Plague may be said to be unknown here. Tuberculosis showed little sign of diminution ; it is due principally to over-crowding and neglect of elementary laws of health. It is to be hoped that increasing knowledge and improved housing conditions will do much towards reducing this scourge.

The Colony was tranquil from a police point of view. Special precautions were taken with a view to the prevention of illicit gun-running, the desire of the Government being to prevent this Colony being used as a base by Mexican revolutionists and to preserve the neutrality of the Colony. The measures taken included the prohibition of the importation of arms both by land and sea for one year and the rigorous control by Government over the issue of permits to sell arms and ammunition locally and to export the same. These steps may be said to have proved very successful.

The Colony was visited during the year by H.M.S. *Æolus*, *Hermione*, and *Lancaster*, and a party of marines from the latter ship was sent with a detachment of the police force in December to maintain order in the Cayo and to prevent the passage of arms and ammunition.

The notorious Mexican bandit, Hernandez, was shot in the Cayo, in April, while resisting arrest. He had murdered a police officer here and had then escaped to Mexico; he returned to the Colony and, meeting a party of police, opened fire on them and was shot.

The labour difficulty is still paramount; owing to the high wages paid in the mahogany industry it is almost impossible to obtain labour at reasonable prices for agricultural work. Negotiations with the Government of Barbados for the introduction of labour from that Colony have been so far without result.

The trade of the Colony for the year amounted to $6,311,593, as compared with $6,353,051 in 1912. The difference was due largely to the reduction in mahogany importations from Guatemala and Mexico, which fell off to the extent of $649,403. On the other hand, imports from the United Kingdom and United States show a considerable increase in value. There is no evidence of British goods being superseded in any way by foreign goods. The imports from the United Kingdom show an increase of some $35,000 in value.

The export of bananas showed a gratifying increase of 147,498 bunches, due largely to increased transport facilities on the Stann Creek Railway. Plantains show a decrease of some 41,000 in number.

It is interesting to note that 938 barrels of grape-fruit were exported in the year to the United States and eight barrels of oranges.

The United States receives six times more of the exports than any other country, the United Kingdom coming next.

Mahogany.

The year 1913 opened in the middle of a general rise in the price of mahogany in foreign markets, and, with satisfactory prospects, cutters were able to continue to employ all labour offering at the same high rate of wages as had prevailed during the previous two or three years.

October registered the high-water mark as far as prices in the United Kingdom were concerned, though in the United States they had begun to recede somewhat earlier. After that date there was a general fall in value, owing to increased receipts in the buying markets of wood from other countries brought out by the earlier "boom." However, the industry and its subsidiaries in the Colony enjoyed a prosperous year and exports were well up to the average.

Prospects at the end of the year were not so good as at the beginning. For some years past the output of mahogany from the Colony has been unusually high, and it should be added that the American market has been glutted, owing to the feverish haste of American concessionaires in Mexico to extract all the mahogany possible before the expiration of their concessions.

Logwood.

The exportation of logwood has decreased considerably in recent years, and the demand for this product was very limited in 1913, owing to the continued substitution of aniline dyes manufactured in Germany, so that it was not worth while to cut on a large scale.

Cohune Nuts.

As regards Cohune nuts, which have been so favourite an object of enquiry among City firms during the last two or three years, the following extracts from the West India Committee Circular of July 1st, 1913, may be quoted as a word of warning:—

"The fact that the Cohune palm flourishes in great quantities in an absolutely wild state does not imply that the nuts are as easy to collect as cob-nuts in a Kentish orchard. Far from it. The cohune ridges of British Honduras are of the temperature of the tropical house at Kew.

"Underbush and creepers grow riotously under the shade of the magnificent Attaleas. Ticks, sand-flies and bottle-flies (these last a peculiarly malignant pest which leaves the hands and face of the sufferer covered with black spots) are there in abundance to relieve the monotony, and snakes, centipedes and scorpions are not uncommon. . . . . The mere idea that an enterprising syndicate has only to send out a machine or machines and dump them down in the bush in order to start shipping copra is simply fatuous, and means mere waste of money and discouragement. Tropical industries in these days require to be in the hands of people of tropical experience, and it will only be by such that undertakings of this nature can be brought to a successful issue."

In the issue of October 20th, 1914, the West India Committee Circular alludes with satisfaction to the fact that progress is being made upon the right lines by at least one corporation who have taken up a large area of land on which there are Cohune palms in considerable quantity and have cleared the land for banana cultivation, but instead of making a wholesale clearance they only thinned out the Cohune palms. By doing this and by clearing the ground round them with the object of affording them light and air, they are hopeful that the palms may bear properly.

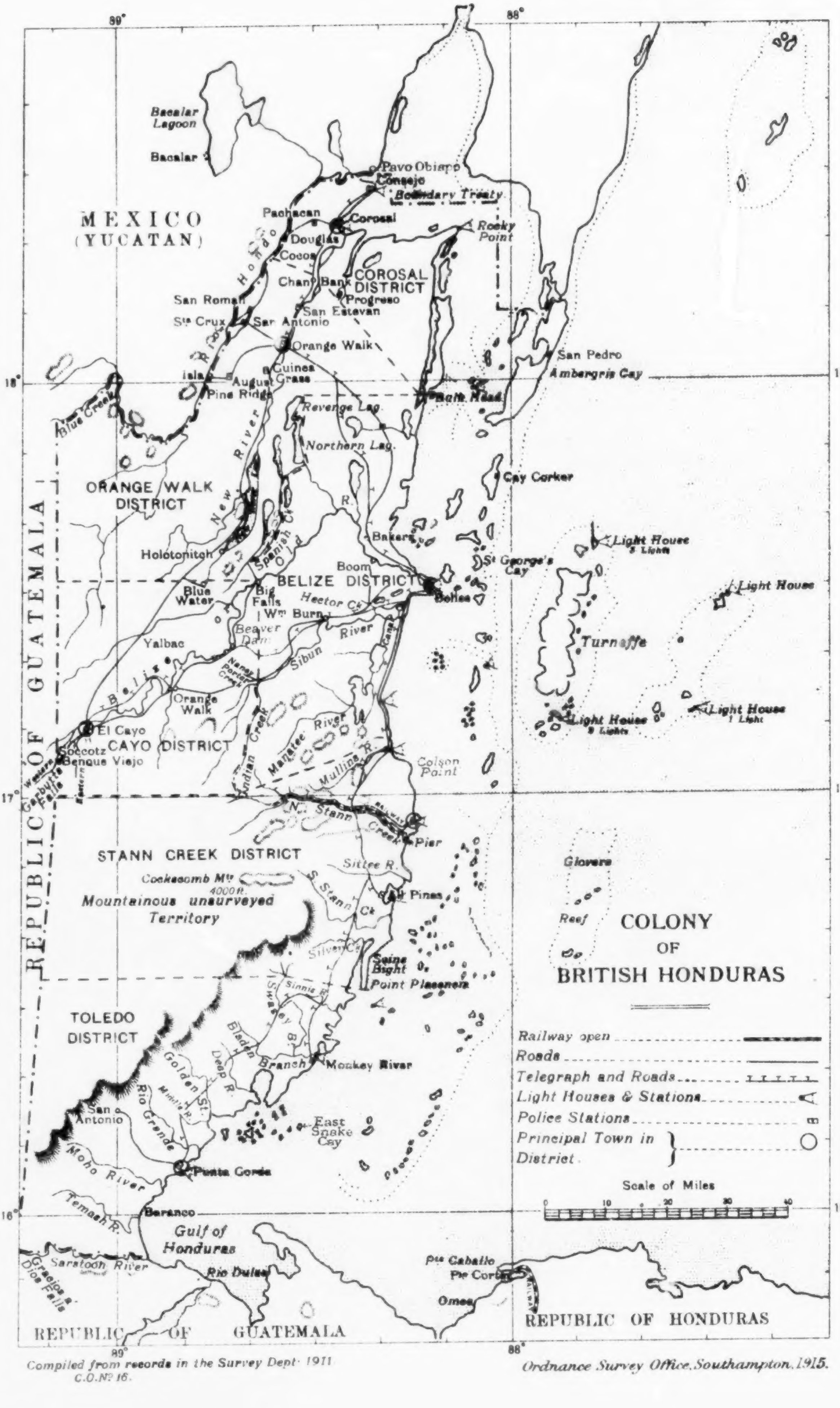
Public Works.

During the year a new Lunatic Asylum of reinforced concrete construction, capable of accommodating 64 males and 32 females, was completed at a total cost of about $40,000. A powerful revolving light was installed at Maugre Caye Lighthouse. An increased number of cells, a new chapel and a hospital were added to the Prison. A new rifle range was built. Reclamation and canal construction were continued. A trunk road from Belize to the Cayo in the west was started and various other new roads throughout the Colony continued.

The period under review saw the works of reconstruction on the Stann Creek Railway brought to a conclusion. Fifty-two bridges of varying spans, including steel and plate girders, concrete viaducts and culverts, were completed. Ballasting and regrading were accomplished, additional siding and new rolling stock were provided, and the permanent way brought to a state of efficiency. The head of the steamer pier in connection with the railway was reconstructed of reinforced concrete, adding greatly to its strength and stability.

R. WALTER,

Colonial Secretary.


COLONY OF BRITISH HONDURAS
MEXICO (YUCATAN)
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
COROSAL DISTRICT
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
BELIZE DISTRICT
CAYO DISTRICT
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Pavo Obispo
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Chan Bank
Progreso
San Estevan
San Roman
Sta Crux
San Antonio
Orange Walk
Guinea Grass
Isla
August
Pine Ridge
Rio Hondo
Blue Creek
Rocky Point
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bolk Head
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
New River
Cay Corker
Bakers
Light House
5 Lights
St George's Cay
Holotonitch
Spanish Ck.
Boom
Blue Water
Big Falls
Wm Burn
Hector Ck.
Belize
Beaver Dam
River
Sibun
Turneffe
Yalbac
Belize R.
Nanay Porter Creek
Orange Walk
El Cayo
Soccotz
Benque Viejo
Indian Creek
Manatee River
Mullins R.
Colson Point
Garbutt Falls
N. Stann Creek
Railway
Pier
Glovers Reef
Cockscomb Mts 4000 ft.
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
Sittee R.
S. Stann Ck.
All Pines
Silver Ck.
Seine Bight
Point Placencia
Sinnie R.
Swasey Br.
Bladen Branch
Monkey River
Golden St.
Deep R.
Rio Grande
San Antonio
East Snake Cay
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
Gracias a Dios Falls
Rio Dulce
Pto Caballo
Pto Cortes
Omoa
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°
Railway open
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept. 1911
C.O. Nº 16.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
796	Bermuda	1912
797	Ceylon	„
798	Gibraltar	1913
799	St. Helena	„
800	Turks and Caicos Islands	„
801	Seychelles	„
802	Ceylon	„
803	Bermuda	„
804	Weihaiwei	„
805	Gambia	„
806	Gold Coast	„
807	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	„
808	Sierra Leone	„
809	Bahamas	1913–1914
810	Cayman Islands (Jamaica)	1912–1913
811	Fiji	1913
812	Ashanti	„
813	Basutoland	1913–1914
814	Hong Kong	1913
815	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1913–1914
816	Imperial Institute	1913
817	Falkland Islands	„
818	Malta	1913–1914
819	Trinidad and Tobago	„
820	Jamaica	„
821	Northern Nigeria	1913
822	Grenada	„
823	Zanzibar	„
824	Barbados	1913–1914
825	Southern Nigeria	1913
826	Mauritius	„

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
78	Weihaiwei	Census, 1911.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.

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1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 868.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1914.

(For Report for 1913, see No. 827.)

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

October, 1915.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 868.

BRITISH HONDURAS

(For Report for 1913 see No. 827.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Belize,
17th September, 1915.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1914.

I have, &c.,

WILFRED COLLETT,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

(C211) Wt.36076/850. 1125 & 90. 11.15. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1914.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1914, and 1915. The other returns are for the calendar year 1914.

On the 1st April, 1914, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $288,170 and on the 1st April, 1915, the surplus was $204,341.

The following statements show the revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the financial years 1912–13, 1913–14, and 1914–15 under each head of revenue and service respectively:—

General Revenue.

Head of Revenue.	Amount collected in the Year 1912–13.	Amount collected in the Year 1913–14.	Amount collected in the Year 1914–15.
	$	$	$
1 Customs	297,643	324,179	283,257
2 Light and Wharf Dues ..	9,895	9,547	8,014
3 Internal Taxation	87,662	97,267	96,956
4 Revenues of Government Property	27,186	23,070	12,307
5 Fees of Court or Office, &c. ..	22,618	24,224	20,349
6 Post Office	18,693	28,305	16,128
7 Telegraphs	10,696	10,621	10,948
8 Interest..	18,910	19,104	17,844
9 Reimbursements on account of Belize Town and Harbour Improvements	119	120	120
10 Miscellaneous Receipts ..	2,401	3,628	2,601
11 Railway Receipts	20,054	29,191	28,399
Total Ordinary Revenue	515,877	569,256	496,923
12 Sale of Crown Lands	23,275	4,271	4,569
13 Casual Revenue	41	33	830
14 Supply of Coin..	1,500	250	1,750
15 Reimbursements from Loan Funds on account of Expenditure on Railway Construction and Loan Works	34,550	17,174	9,077
Total Revenue ..	575,243	590,984	513,149
Local Revenue:—			
Belize District	35,043	34,532	32,109
Corozal District..	3,975	5,157	4,921
Orange Walk District	2,048	2,454	5,715
Stann Creek District	4,553	6,182	4,591
Toledo District	2,058	2,185	2,570
Cayo District	1,891	1,961	3,365
Total Local Revenue	49,568	52,471	53,271
Grand Total	624,811	643,455	566,420

Expenditure.

Head of Expenditure.	Expenditure 1912–13.	Expenditure 1913–14.	Expenditure 1914–15.
	$	$	$
1 Public Debt	43,152	41,735	45,638
2 Pensions	10,508	11,450	12,123
2a Compassionate Allowance ..	204	—	—
3 Governor	11,729	11,725	11,293
4 Colonial Secretary's Department	9,837	10,244	10,581
4a Commissioners of Currency ..	993	1,307	60
5 Treasury and Customs ..	24,423	25,902	25,456
6 Audit Department	3,065	3,480	3,474
7 Post Office and Telegraph Department	27,659	26,759	26,285
8 Judicial Department	16,124	17,221	15,412
9 District Commissioners ..	14,343	14,673	16,368
10 Police Department	47,253	47,589	46,345
11 Volunteer Force	8,000	8,000	8,000
12 Prison Department	14,080	13,476	14,394
13 Medical Department	40,830	41,494	45,629
14 Central Board of Health and Quarantine..	1,198	1,941	3,604
15 Education	21,229	22,454	23,208
16 Surveyor General's Department	20,703	20,914	20,052
17 Botanic Station	2,439	2,431	2,397
18 Miscellaneous	8,863	11,248	15,154
19 Stann Creek Railway	42,937	49,206	54,391
19a Railway Special	—	—	3,435
20 Lighthouses	5,393	5,341	5,731
21 Public Works Department ..	17,704	18,323	17,342
22 Public Works and Telegraph Recurrent	32,830	56,572	53,822
Total Ordinary Expenditure	425,496	463,485	480,094
23 Public Works Extraordinary ..	58,494	47,387	55,267
24 Railway Extraordinary ..	92,954	75,889	37,828
25 Miscellaneous Extraordinary..	779	509	—
26 Loan Works to be constructed under Ordinance No. 2 of 1911	33,408	17,174	9,077
27 Transfer to Currency Funds ..	—	4,997	—
28 War	—	—	14,257
29 Supply of coin	—	—	354
Total Expenditure	611,130	609,441	596,877
Local Expenditure :—			
Belize District	31,367	31,735	40,337
Corozal District..	3,608	4,010	4,657
Orange Walk District	2,586	2,906	1,193
Stann Creek District	4,091	7,046	4,235
Toledo District	1,953	1,943	1,911
Cayo District	2,176	2,268	2,663
Total Local Expenditure	45,781	49,908	54,996
Grand Total	656,912	659,349	651,873

The following is a statement of the revenue and expenditure for the five years, 1910–11 to 1914–15 :—

Year.	General Revenue.	General Expenditure.
	$	$
1910–11	459,295	542,810
1911–12	1,201,908*	532,123
1912–13	575,243	611,131
1913–14	590,982	609,441
1914–15	513,149	596,979

The position of the Colony on the 31st March, 1915, in respect of its assets and liabilities, as compared with the position on the 31st March, 1914, and 1913, is shown in the following table :—

General Revenue.

	1913.	1914.	1915.
	$	$	$
Assets	508,434	490,125	388,321
Liabilities	201,805	201,955	183,981
Excess of Assets	306,629	388,170	204,340

At the end of the financial year 1915 the surplus on General Revenue Account stood at $204,341, of which $81,622 was invested.

The following is a statement of the loan debt of the Colony on the 31st March, 1915 :—

	$
Loan of 1885 (5 per cent. Debentures)	27,875
Loan of 1887 (4½ per cent. Debentures)	43,740
Loan of 1891 (4½ per cent. Debentures)	97,200
Railway and Public Works Loan, 1911—	
Debentures	209,466
Inscribed Stock	568,134
Total	946,415

The loans of 1885, 1887, and 1891 were all contracted for the improvement of the town of Belize. The local fund contributes one-half of the interest on the loans of 1885 and 1887 and one-half of the sinking fund on the loan of 1887, but nothing in respect of the loan of 1891. The sinking fund of the loan of 1885 requires no further contributions as the present capital value of the fund is sufficient to produce, at compound interest, the total amount which will be required to liquidate the loan when the payment is due. Ordinance No. 10 of 1902 has legalised the discontinuance of contributions to the fund.

---

*Includes $703,593 reimbursed from loan funds on account of expenditure on railway and other public works.

Provision for the repayment of these loans has been made by the investment of the sinking funds, as set forth in the next table, which shows the market value of the investments in July, 1914 :—

	$
Loan of 1885 (repayable 1916, $27,875 = £5,735 12*s.*)	28,896
Loan of 1887 (repayable 1918, £9,000) ..	35,340
Loan of 1891 (repayable 1923, £20,000) ..	54,336
Railway and Public Works Loan, 1911—	
Debentures	1,080
Inscribed Stock	2,930
Total Sinking Funds	122,582

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America, the gold coins of the United States being legally current at their respective values. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. The subsidiary silver currency, coined specially for the Colony, amounts to $158,916. There is also a bronze cent. piece and nickel-bronze five-cents piece, whose issues amount to $3,600 and $2,500 respectively.

Under Ordinance No. 32 of 1894 currency notes have been issued for sums of $1, $2, $5, $10, $50 and $100. The $50 and $100 notes have been withdrawn from circulation.

The amount of notes in circulation on the 31st March, 1915, was $191,930.

II.—TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRIES.

The following tables give the value of the imports and exports of the Colony for the years 1912 to 1914 :—

Imports.

	1912	1913	1914
	$	$	$
United Kingdom	666,765	700,859	502,833
Colonies	45,654	38,913	34,336
United States	1,327,550	1,567,582	1,503,414
Germany	55,072	52,246	59,474
France	43,813	32,830	32,958
Mexico	1,100,136	489,399	593,183
Guatemala	145,269	106,603	124,772
Honduras	77,039	161,890	95,502
Other Countries	35,610	35,046	33,934
Total Imports	**3,496,908**	**3,185,268**	**2,980,406**

Exports.

	1912	1913	1914
	$	$	$
United Kingdom	309,336	381,788	307,066
Colonies	—	18,233	—
United States	2,249,732	2,376,685	2,360,959
Mexico	127,636	225,693	129,576
Guatemala	46,338	16,415	20,860
Honduras	87,317	76,009	78,377
France	33,200	21,996	7,600
Other Countries	2,584	9,406	14,337
Total Exports . ..	2,856,143	3,126,225	2,918,775

Trade.

The trade of the Colony amounted to $5,899,181, as compared with $6,311,593 in the previous year, a decrease in value of $412,412.

Imports.

In the case of imports the basis of the values is the invoice value plus the cost of packages, but does not include freight and insurance. In the case of exports it is the value as declared by exporters, excluding the cost of handling at the port of shipment.

Imports show a decline of $204,962 in value as compared with that of the previous year, which is chiefly due to the reduced imports of wearing apparel, cotton and silk goods, &c.

Imports from the United Kingdom have decreased nearly $200,000 in value, and from Germany increased over $7,000. This was due to large consignments of milk, brandy, and gin imported before war broke out, the value of milk alone being over $20,000. There was a considerable decrease in imports from the United States of America and Honduras. An increase of $103,784 is shown over 1913 in imports from Mexico, notwithstanding the unsettled state of affairs in that country. This was due to large operations in chicle.

The values of the principal imports in groups for 1913 and 1914 showing increases and decreases were :—

Articles.	1914.	1913.
	$	$
Apparel, including cotton and silk goods, haberdashery, millinery, hats, linens, and woollens	349,253	434,198
Bacon and hams, salted beef, meats preserved in tins or bottles, food and milk supplies ..	169,867	197,284
Boots and shoes	109,660	120,993
Preserved fruits and vegetables	43,243	47,575
Flour	107,942	106,542
Hardware and cutlery	69,082	82,934
Chicle	454,304	351,719
Mahogany and cedar	209,928	210,262
Spirits	51,758	44,103
Sugar unrefined	28,674	4,909
Tobacco, including cigars, cigarettes, leaf and manufactured	28,815	32,631
Coconuts	14,665	9,699

Imports from the Republic of Honduras, which had been rather abnormal in 1913, dropped $66,388, and those from Guatemala increased $18,169, due to increased imports of sugar when the duty in this Colony was taken off.

The chief articles the import of which increased in 1914 were bacons, hams, Indian corn, lard, milk, unrefined sugar, tea, chicle, coconuts, and machinery. The high prices of flour and rice made the imports of those articles appear to be greater than in 1913, but the quantities imported were actually less.

Increases and decreases in the value of imports for 1913 and 1914 by classes were :—

Class II.—Raw Materials.	$	
1914	721,651	
1913	375,986	
Increase		$ 345,665
Class III.—Manufactured Materials.		
i. Metals.		
1914	215,968	
1913	185,205	
Increase		$ 30,763
Class IV.—Coin, Bullion and Specie.		
1914	147,386	
1913	5,889	
Increase		$ 141,497
Total Increases		$ 517,925

Class I.—Live animals, food, drink, and narcotics.

	$	
1914	322,621	
1913	454,738	
Decrease		$ 113,839

Class III.—Manufactured Materials.

i. Textiles.

1914	322,621	
1913	454,738	
Decrease		$ 132,117

iii. Other.

1914	599,100	
1913	1,076,031	
Decrease		$ 476,931
Total Decreases		$ 722,887
Net Decreases..		$ 204,962

Customs Import Duties amounted to $267,806, as against $288,256 in 1913 and $260,837 in 1912.

Exports.

The chief articles exported, as compared with 1913, were:—

Articles.		1913	1914
Bananas	(bunches)	617,537	675,443
Cacao	(lbs.)	25,171	20,600
Cedar	(feet)	1,330,237	921,386
Coconuts	(number)	6,352,630	9,315,040
Logwood	(tons)	2,812	1,750
Mahogany..	(feet)	15,027,520	13,858,327
Plantains	(number)	3,300,450	1,990,650
Rubber	(lbs.)	12,946	5,054
Rum	(gallons)	14,881	6,207
Sapodilla Gum	(lbs.)	3,163,129	3,461,809
Sponges	(lbs.)	1,521	922
Sugar (raw)	(lbs.)	122,025	64,430
Tortoise shell	(lbs.)	5,337	2,028

Shipments of bananas, coconuts, and chicle call for special mention, the increase being considerable. On the other hand, there was a great decrease in other commodities.

Of the total coconuts exported nearly 3,000,000 were foreign imports re-exported. Two-thirds of the total chicle exported was not the product of the Colony.

Excise.

Rum was made at nine distilleries situated on the sugar farms in the northern districts.

Their output and exportation for the last three years were :—

Year.	Gallons made.	Gallons exported.
1912	63,701	12,690
1913	82,787	14,811
1914	53,220	6,207

It will be seen that there is a very considerable decrease both in the quantity made and the quantity exported, as compared with the last two years.

Shipping.

A comparison of the nationality, number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1913 and 1914, is shown in the following tables :—

Entered.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam	1913	132	255,403	143	2,076	168	136,880
	1914	138	258,688	102	75,649	160	108,419
Sailing	1913	462	9,223	107	2,474	108	1,766
	1914	369	8,197	50	1,185	106	1,817

Cleared.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam	1913	131	252,357	143	2,001	178	140,745
	1914	145	270,256	106	73,335	165	115,281
Sailing	1913	439	9,520	123	2,796	117	1,617
	1914	374	8,113	46	1,141	130	1,898

The "others" were almost entirely Norwegian ships in the case of steamers and Honduranean in the case of sailing ships.

The total shipping in tons inwards and outwards for three years is shown below :—

Year.	Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
1912	316,660	313,404	630,064
1913	407,822	409,036	816,858
1914	453,955	470,024	923,979

The tonnage entered *with cargoes* in 1914 was 325,149, of which 319,075 tons came as steamer tonnage.

The tonnage cleared with cargoes was 295,286 of which 289,044 tons went away as steamer tonnage.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty Ordinances were passed. None of these were disallowed.

The legislation for the year may be divided into two groups, viz.: Ordinary legislation and legislation specially introduced in consequence of the War.

Of the ordinary legislation the following are the principal enactments :—

Ordinance No. 7 amends the law relating to labourers, more especially as regards the supplying of intoxicants to labourers by unauthorized persons, giving the employer a more summary way of dealing with such abuses. Provision is also made for the cancellation of agreements and for the protection of labourers recruited outside the Colony.

Ordinance No. 9 simplifies the proof of deeds executed outside the Colony for the purpose of recording under Chapter 180 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition).

Ordinance No. 15 amends the law relating to newspapers, especially as regards the liabilities of printers and publishers and their sureties under the bonds executed by them.

Ordinance No. 25 enables the Governor to enter into agreements for the insurance of parcels sent by post.

Of the legislation specially introduced in consequence of the War, the following are the principal enactments :—

Ordinance No. 19, enabling the Governor to regulate the sale and distribution of foodstuffs during the War.

Ordinance No. 20 gives the Governor power to arrest and detain any person reasonably suspected of having been guilty of treason, &c., or of being dangerous to the peace and good order of the Colony.

Ordinance No. 22 provides for temporary alterations in the tariff during the War.

Ordinance No. 24 enables the Governor to provide holdings for agriculturists who agree to grow food or other crops thereon during the War, and further enables the Governor to hire land for that purpose.

Ordinance No. 29 makes silver coin of the Colony legal tender for all purposes and to any amount during the War, but prohibits any further coinage of silver.

Ordinance No. 30 provides for machinery whereby the influx of impecunious persons into the Colony may be restricted.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created consisting of the Governor as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1914 was $20,245.55, which comprised the following items :—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	17,502.96
Grants on account of pupil teachers	1,069.40
Grants for needlework	255.00
Grants for agriculture	16.50
Bonuses on examination results, 1913	1,126.69
Grants on buildings, furniture, and apparatus..	275.00
	$20,245.55

The total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $36,801.15. Of this sum the Government contributed $22,439·90, detailed as follows:—

	$
Grants in aid of schools	20,245.55
Expenses of administration	2,194.35

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (3,823) was $9.63. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the preceding year:—

	1913.	1914.
	$	$
Paid by Government	5.98	5.87
School Fees	.97	.91
Voluntary Contributions.. ..	4.11	2.85
Total ..	11.06	9.63

The average attendances during 1912, 1913, and 1914 were 3,294, 3,543 and 3,823 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 54. There were 45 in 1912 and 53 in 1913.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,295, as compared with 4,764 in 1912, and 5,201 in 1913.

There were also in operation four unaided primary schools, with 132 in average daily attendance.

The sum of $736.98 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1914, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Ten candidates passed the Junior, and thirteen the Preliminary Examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1914:—

Institutions.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital..	44·780
Corozal Hospital	7·22
Orange Walk Hospital..	8·27
Stann Creek Hospital	6·14
Punta Gorda Hospital..	7·4
Belize:—	
Lunatic Asylum	67·39
Poor-house	34·81

Savings Bank.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1914, was 939. Deposits amounted to $64,504.39, and withdrawals to $56,444.89. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1914 was $114,265.73.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $100,000.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 102 non-commissioned officers and men—the full establishment. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

The following table gives the total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment, and the daily average number of prisoners in Belize Prison, from 1912 to 1914 :—

Year.	Prisoners committed for penal imprisonment.	Daily average in Belize Prison.
1912	439	72·62
1913	544	64·47
1914	471	64·71

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 36 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. One prisoner died, who was ill on admission. There was one execution.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year 1914 was 1,150, or 112 less than in 1913. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,067, or 74 less than in 1913.

Informations were filed against 68 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 50 cases and for the prisoner in 14. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in four cases.

There was one conviction for murder and one conviction for manslaughter.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 41,543, consisting of 20,848 males and 20,695 females.

The following table, prepared by the Registrar-General, furnishes comparative statistics for the past 10 years of the causes of death in the Colony per 1,000 of the estimated mean population :—

	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Diseases :—										
Malarial Fever	9·3	9·6	7·0	6·1	7·1	5·1	6·6	5·3	5·8	4·7
Dysentery	1·3	·9	·7	·8	1·0	1·0	1·2	1·0	·7	1·2
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	·068	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow Fever.. ..	·173	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis, Pulmonary	1·3	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1	1·3	1·4	1·4	1·6	1·5
Nervous Diseases ..	1·9	1·9	2·6	·2	1·8	·9	·7	·4	2·1	1·8
Circulatory Diseases .	·6	·4	2·7	·9	·7	1·0	1·5	1·0	1·1	·9
Respiratory Diseases .	2·0	4·7	1·8	1·1	1·5	2·5	3·0	1·7	4·2	2·5
Digestive Diseases ..	2·8	2·0	3·1	3·1	2·8	2·8	2·8	2·1	2·8	3·0
Urinary Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	·7	1·1	·8	·7	1·3
Other Causes.. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7·2	11·2
Total Death Rate..	32·9	29·9	22·2	23·3	21·8	23·3	25·0	24·9	26·2	28·1

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1909–1913, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1914 :—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1909–13.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1914.
Indian	75·28	88·88
Carib	55·95	49·70
Negro	54·18	51·22
Other races ..	60·67	67·42

The birth-rate was 42 and the mortality 28·139 per thousand of the estimated mean population.

The excess of births over deaths was 627.

The number of illegitimate births was 686 out of a total of 1,796, or 38 per cent.

Three hundred and seventy marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 11·20 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years :—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1910	1,665	36·9	385	1,052	23·3
1911	1,730	42·4	412	1,012	24·8
1912	1,654	40·5	402	1,015	24·9
1913	1,653	40·15	417	1,080	26·2
1914	1,796	42·	370	1,169	28·139

During 1914 the excess of female over male births was 38; and of male over female deaths 88.

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1905–1914 in Belize was 95·80 inches; the maximum (130·93 inches) being in 1911, and the minimum (63·76 inches) in 1910. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell, and 1913 the largest. The latter year, it may be pointed out, approximated very closely to the year 1911, both in the amount of rainfall and as regards the number of days on which rain actually fell. The average number of days on which rain fell during the years 1905–1914 was 121.

Comparative Return.

Year.	Rainfall in inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
1905	106·42	109
1906	99·32	102
1907	91·17	80
1908	80·00 (?)	80 (?)
1909	64·49	91
1910	63·76	124
1911	130·93	166
1912	97·45	144
1913	126·73	167
1914	97·755	152

Summary of meteorological observations, taken at Belize, for the year 1914 :—

Months.	Barometer Corrected.		Relative Humidity.		Shade Temperature.		Rain.	
	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	Highest	Lowest	No. of days	Inches
January ..	30·277	29·905	97°	69°	84°	61°	11	12·575
February..	30·230	29·927	97°	69°	83°	65°	12	5·400
March ..	30·258	29·868	94°	69°	82°	63°	11	·900
April ..	30·057	29·856	91°	67°	86°	72°	7	·130
May ..	30·086	29·833	91°	74°	87°	76°	13	2·900
June ..	30·083	29·867	97°	77°	86°	75°	13	12·050
July ..	30·115	29·923	97°	74°	87°	77°	9	5·150
August ..	30·123	29·913	94°	77°	87°	75°	12	5·750
September	30·085	29·853	97°	74°	88°	75°	11	10·750
October ..	30·207	29·766	94°	69°	87°	68°	15	13·200
November	30·209	29·803	97°	61°	85°	61°	29	18·500
December	30·170	29·769	97°	79°	87°	70°	18	10·450
Average..	30·158	29·856	95·2	71·5	85·7	69·8	TOTAL. 152	97·755

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $17,436, as compared with $28,892, in 1913, showing a decrease of $11,456, caused by the decrease of sale of new stamps to dealers ; the receipts having fallen from $13,579 in 1913 to $1,786 in 1914.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $19,968, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $10,000, making a total expenditure of $19,968. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $3,199.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad from 1912 to 1914 were as follows :—

	1912	1913	1914
Ordinary Letters	240,960	246,422	225,373
Registered Articles	11,680	13,261	13,844
Postcards	18,973	19,881	17,206
Newspapers, Books, &c. ..	180,378	152,191	167,854
Postal Parcels	12,435	16,543	16,474

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

	1912	1913	1914
Ordinary Letters	87,485	88,520	89,388
Registered Articles	3,739	3,704	4,362
Postcards	1,237	1,307	1,024
Newspapers and Books ..	10,074	12,064	4,976
Parcels	1,019	1,312	1,329

The working expenses of the telegraph and telephone system amounted to $13,066, and the receipts to $10,694.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The health of the Colony during the year was good. There was a serious outbreak of bubonic plague at the neighbouring port of New Orleans, but, thanks largely to the vigorous measures adopted by the authorities there, no case reached the Colony. A rat campaign was carried out at the joint cost of the Government and Town Board, but no traces of plague bacilli were found in any of the rats examined. There was an alarm of yellow fever at Payo Obispo, but on investigation it was proved to be a case of bilious remittent.

Inquiries were made into the prevalence of ankylostomiasis, and revealed that it is very frequent among the Indian population in the Toledo district and also in parts of the district of Orange Walk, the principal causes assigned being ignorance of the most rudimentary laws of sanitation and hygiene. It is anticipated that further investigations will be made in the near future on behalf of the Rockefeller Foundation, who propose to send a Commission to confer with the Government as to the best methods of coping with this insidious disease.

The Colony contributed exhibits at the Tropical Products Exhibition held in London in June and July, and was represented by a delegate, the Honble. W. L. McKinstry. In connection with the exhibition a useful pamphlet was prepared by Mr. E. L. F. English, M.A., called British Honduras Resources and Industries. The pamphlet gives in an abridged form notes regarding the principal products of the Colony, with interesting data about the forest timbers.

No apparent results have been obtained from the advertisement gained by the Colony at the exhibition, as all internal development was rudely checked by the outbreak of war in August.

The general condition of the Colony from a police point of view was good; only one capital sentence was carried out. This is the more satisfactory as, owing to the unemployment consequent on the war, it might have been expected that crime would increase. The visit of H.M.S. "Lancaster" at the end of 1913 and early in 1914, undoubtedly had a salutary effect, while the illicit exportation of arms and ammunition has been reduced to negligible proportions.

Affairs in the neighbouring Republic of Mexico have been a constant source of anxiety to the Government.

The task of carrying out the revision of the laws was completed during the year by His Honour Judge Shaw, who was appointed Special Commissioner for this purpose. Mr. Shaw was, while on leave in the autumn, promoted to be a Puisne Judge in Ceylon and he has been succeeded by Mr. R. B. Roden, late Acting Administrator of St. Vincent. The revision of the laws has not, unfortunately, obviated the necessity of further legislation.

The trade of the Colony declined in value to the extent of $412,412. This may be attributed entirely to the war. At the beginning of the year everything pointed to an exceptionally good trade year, and this is borne out by the actual figures. For the first seven months of the year imports increased by over 8 per cent. against the figures for 1913, while from August onward they declined steadily, and at the end of the year were 21 per cent. below the figures for the corresponding period of 1913. Similarly, from January to July, exports increased 54 per cent. over the figures for the same period in 1913, but from August onward they decreased steadily and show a decline of 40 per cent. on the figures for the same period in 1913. The total value of imports declined to the extent of $204,962. This is accounted for mainly by reduced imports of wearing apparel, cotton and silk piece goods, food, drink supplies, haberdashery, boots, shoes, cattle, and trucks for mahogany works. The principal cause of the decline in prosperity was the general depression in trade due to the war, which especially affected the market for such staple exports as mahogany and cedar. Further, many of the principal employers of labour had hitherto carried on their operations with borrowed money, but were unable to obtain a renewal of their advances. They found it necessary, therefore, to reduce their labour staffs and the wages paid. Owing to political troubles in Mexico, the Mengel Company had shut down and, as indicated in the Report for 1913, the American market had been glutted owing to the feverish haste with which American concessionaires in Mexico had been pulling out mahogany in view of the near expiration of the terms of their concessions.

These conditions, combined with the alarming increase in the prices of flour, rice, sugar, beans, and other staples of life imported into the Colony, caused very considerable anxiety, and the Government decided to explain the situation clearly to labourers and employers and to call upon them to make the best of things. Both parties responded patriotically. At the same time a scheme was started under Government auspices and aided by Government funds at Stann Creek with the double object of growing cheap food-stuffs and of providing a safety-valve for unemployment. It is not expected that the scheme will prove a financial success to the Government, but it will have served its purpose in tiding over a difficult time. The reality of the unemployment is shown by the fact that during the hiring-season for the year 1913–14 there were hired in Belize 1,717 labourers at an average wage of $12.64; during the 1914–15 season only 714 labourers were signed on, at an average wage of $8.21. By the irony of fate it thus happened that a Colony where hitherto the one cry has been for more labour and more population has actually had to legislate with a view to preventing an influx of labourers looking for work from adjoining countries.

It has been found advisable to alter the Customs tariff with a view to increasing the taxation on luxuries.

It is satisfactory to note that, despite the uncertain position of affairs and the depression in trade, there was nothing in the nature of a run on the Savings Bank, the position on the 31st March, 1915, being even more satisfactory than that on the 31st March, 1914.

The Volunteer Force was called out for actual military service in August and steps were taken to defend the Colony against a raid from the one or two fast German cruisers which might have called in for coal, cash, or for pure mischief. The Volunteers have worked well and the efficiency of the force has increased enormously.

Subscriptions were opened for the Prince of Wales's Fund, the Belgian Relief Fund, the British Red Cross Fund, and liberal amounts have been collected. In view of the difficult financial position, it was impossible for the Colony to vote any pecuniary assistance to the Imperial Government, but a considerable amount has been spent in improving the efficiency of the Volunteer Corps, which should be able to give a very good account of itself if called on to do so.

Public Works.

During the year a 5-kilowatt wireless telegraph station, with a range of 400 miles, was installed and put to work with satisfactory results.

An improvement to the lighting of the coast was accomplished by the installation of a new lighthouse at East Snake Cay, having a fifth order flash light with a range of 14 miles, and also the fixed light at English Cay was raised 25 feet, both towers at these places being of reinforced concrete. Reclamation of 34 acres of land from the sea at Belize was continued, and the construction of the roads on same commenced. The public offices and buildings at Punta Gorda were completed.

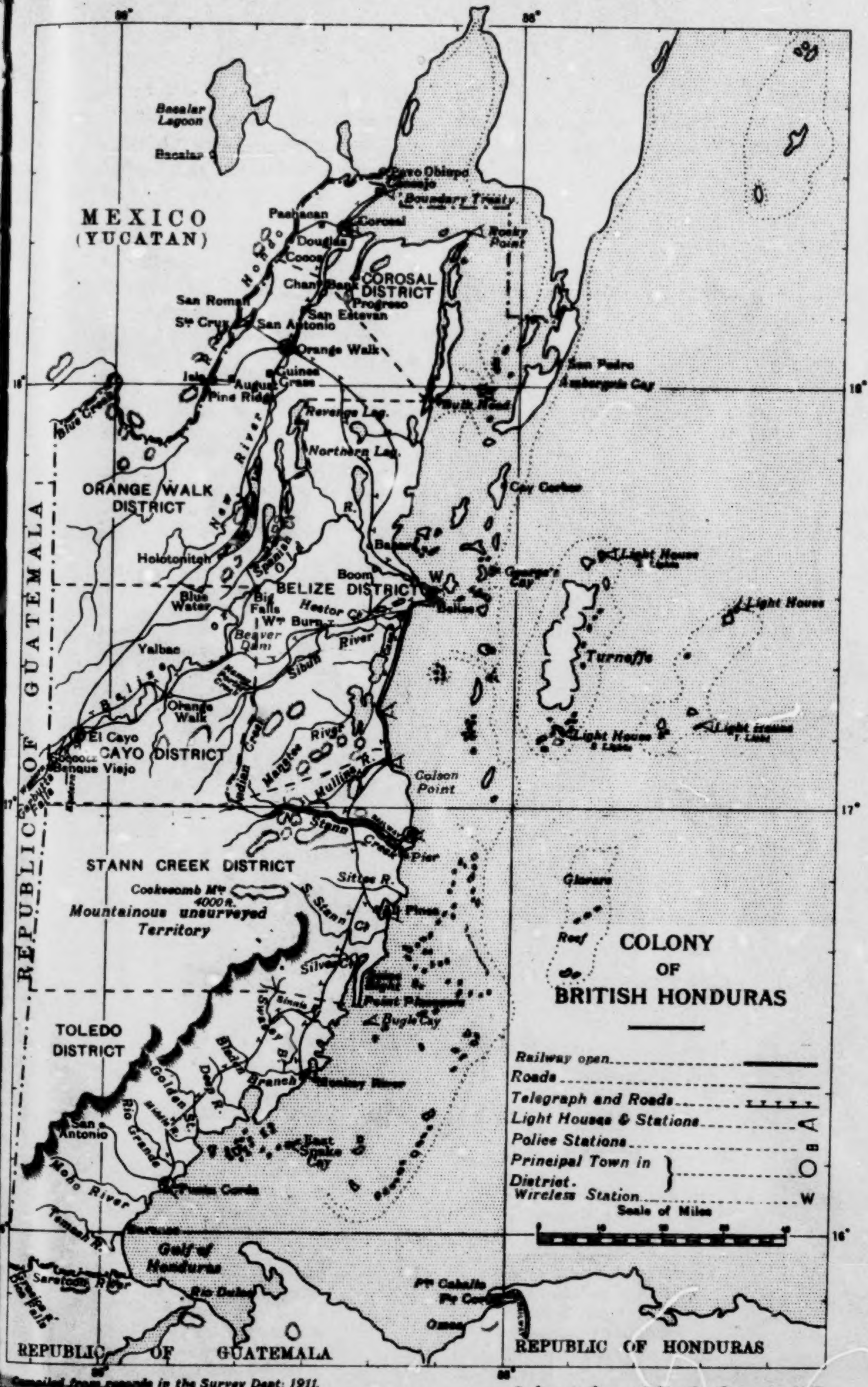
The Canal from Sibun River to Manatee was continued and the Sibun River made navigable by being cleared of rocks and runs to open up the Crown lands in the interior.

Roadwork over swamps, and bridges of varying spans and designs, were undertaken at various places in the Colony and all public buildings maintained in good order.

On the railway at Stann Creek improvements were carried out by the introduction of a light branch tramway running towards Mullins River, the replacing of a bridge over Welcome Creek, and by the conversion of an additional 105 feet of the steamer pier from its original timber construction to reinforced concrete of massive design, to enable steamers to come alongside with safety.

R. Walter,

Colonial Secretary.


COLONY OF BRITISH HONDURAS
MEXICO (YUCATAN)
REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA
REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
COROSAL DISTRICT
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
BELIZE DISTRICT
CAYO DISTRICT
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Bacalar Lagoon
Bacalar
Cayo Obispo
Consejo
Boundary Treaty
Pachacan
Corosal
Douglas
Cocos
Chan Pan
Progreso
San Estevan
San Roman
Sta Cruz
San Antonio
Orange Walk
Guinea Grass
Isla
August
Pine Ridge
Rio Hondo
New River
Blue Creek
Rocky Point
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bulk Head
Revenge Lag.
Northern Lag.
Cay Corker
Holotonitch
Spanish Cr.
Boom
Big Falls
Blue Water
Hector Cr.
Wm Burn
Beaver Dam
Yalbac
Sibun River
Belize R.
Orange Walk
El Cayo
Cocoox
Benque Viejo
Belize
St George's Cay
Light House
Turneffe
Light House
Indian Creek
Mangroo River
Mullins R.
Colson Point
Stann Creek
Pier
Cockscomb Mts 4000 ft.
Mountainous unsurveyed Territory
Sittee R.
S. Stann Cr.
Silver Cr.
Point Placencia
Bugle Cay
Glovers Reef
Monkey River
Swasey Br.
Bladen Branch
Deep R.
Golden St.
Middle R.
Rio Grande
San Antonio
East Snake Cay
Moho River
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Gulf of Honduras
Saratoga River
Rio Dulce
Pto Caballo
Pto Cortes
Omoa
Railway open
Roads
Telegraph and Roads
Light Houses & Stations
Police Stations
Principal Town in District.
Wireless Station
W
Scale of Miles
0
10
20
30
40
89°
88°
18°
17°
16°

Compiled from records in the Survey Dept: 1911.

Ordnance Survey Office, Southampton, 1915.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
834	Imperial Bureau of Entomology	1914
835	St. Vincent	1913–1914
836	St. Lucia	"
837	Somaliland	"
838	Straits Settlements	1913
839	Cayman Islands	1913–1914
840	East Africa Protectorate	"
841	Leeward Islands	"
842	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
843	Zanzibar	1914
844	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
845	Weihaiwei	"
846	Seychelles	"
847	St. Helena	"
848	Fiji	"
849	Bahamas	1914–1915
850	Gibraltar	1914
851	Sierra Leone	"
852	Grenada	1914–1915
853	Bermuda	1914
854	Malta	1914–1915
855	Ceylon	1914
856	Hong Kong	"
857	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1914–1915
858	Basutoland	"
859	Gold Coast	1914
860	Jamaica	1914–1915
861	Gambia	1914
862	Straits Settlements	"
863	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
864	Ashanti	"
865	Cyprus	1914–1915
866	Swaziland	"
867	Somaliland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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1915.

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No. 915.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1915.

(For Report for 1914, see No. 868.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

January, 1917.

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No. 915.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

(For Report for 1914 see No. 868.)

THE GOVERNOR TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Government House,
Belize,
23rd November, 1916.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith the Report on the Blue Book for the year 1915.

I have, &c.

WILFRED COLLET,
Governor.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State
for the Colonies,
&c., &c., &c.

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REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1915.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1916. The other returns are for the calendar year 1915.

On the 1st April, 1915, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $204,341 and on the 1st April, 1916, the surplus was $167,194.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year was $518,447 and the expenditure $555,593. The local revenue of the various districts amounted to $51,412 and the local expenditure to $48,812.

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, SHIPPING, AND EXCISE.

Trade.

The gross value of the trade amounted to $4,384,851. In 1914 it was $5,899,181 and in 1913 it was $6,311,593. This is a very considerable decrease since the War began. It is not altogether due to the dislocation in trade on account of the War. The cessation of mahogany operations in Yucatan and the decline in chicle exports from Mexico accounted for a good deal of it. Trade with Mexico was worth $715,092 in 1913 whereas last year it was only worth $303,406.

Imports.

The total value of all Imports was $2,148,956. In 1914 it was $2,980,406 and in 1913 $3,185,368. The value of coin, bullion and specie imported was $28,343 and of Government Stores $29,792. The value of those goods which paid *ad valorem* duty was $1,043,631 and those which paid *specific* duties $377,302, while those articles which came in duty free, including chicle and mahogany, were valued at $728,023.

The principal articles the importation of which increased in value as compared with 1914 were :—

	1915.	1914.
	$	$
Cement and Lime	3,807	1,117
Fruit and Vegetables preserved.. ..	45,435	43,243
Flour	142,837	107,940
Lard and its compounds	39,657	38,635
Perfumery	17,165	11,686
Rice	54,096	47,600
Coconuts	18,816	14,665

In the case of perfumery the increase was more apparent than real as many goods are now classified as perfumery for tariff purposes that formerly were not so classified. In preserved fruit and vegetables, flour, lard and rice, higher prices for the goods rather than increased imports account for the increase in value.

Imports of rough lumber, soap, tea, leaf tobacco, and unrefined sugar remained about the same as in 1914 notwithstanding higher Customs duties in the case of tea and leaf tobacco and lower duties in the case of unrefined sugar. The value of Indian corn imported was greater by $1,188 than in 1914.

Imports of the following articles, taken in groups, decreased in value as compared with 1914 :—

	1915. $	1914. $
Apparel (including Cotton and Silk goods, Hats, Millinery, Haberdashery and Woollens)	236,074	349,253
Bacon and Hams, Salted Pork and Beef preserved, Meats, food and drink supplies unenumerated	149,572	169,867
Boots and Shoes	77,579	109,660
Hardware and Cutlery	38,621	69,082
Machinery	25,365	60,964
Spirits	31,307	51,758
Tobacco (including Cigars and Cigarettes)	24,357	28,815
Sapodilla Gum	370,422	454,304
Mahogany and Cedar	112,732	209,928

The principal countries and the value of imports therefrom, together with the percentage those imports bore to the total imports for the years 1914 and 1915, are as follows :—

Country.	1914. $	1915. $
United Kingdom	502,833 = 16%	363,739 = 16%
U.S. of America	1,503,414 = 50%	1,143,846 = 53%
Mexico	593,183 = 20%	246,315 = 11%
Honduras	95,502 = 3%	38,532 = 2%
Guatemala..	124,772 = 4%	288,859 = 13%

These figures show that, notwithstanding the difficulty in getting tonnage to convey goods, the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom was the same as in 1914. The United States of America supplied more than half the imports. If the value of such articles as sapodilla gum and mahogany (which are not consumed locally) are omitted from the imports the United States will be found to have supplied us with 68 per cent. of our imports.

Mexico supplies us chiefly with mahogany, sapodilla gum, and cigars, the two former for re-shipment. The supply of mahogany declined from 9,945,449 feet in 1912 to 3,129,680 feet in 1913, and 3,004,261 feet in 1914. Last year imports were only 1,550,480 feet. As regards sapodilla gum imports shrunk from $368,565 in value in 1914 to $116,472 last year.

Imports from the Republic of Honduras have steadily declined in recent years, although coconuts are coming from there in increasing quantities each year. In 1912, 200,560 nuts were imported, in 1913, 231,611 nuts, in 1914, 614,199 nuts, and last year 1,460,525 nuts.

Imports from Guatemala amounted to 13 per cent. of total imports. The articles mainly imported were coffee, sugar, and sapodilla gum. Imports of the latter from the Peten District were valued at $253,950 and have increased considerably of late years. On account of the reduction in the duty imports of sugar increased very much in 1914 and 1915.

Exports.

Exports were valued at $2,235,895, that is, $206,892 in excess of imports for this year and $682,880 less than the exports for 1914. The value of the produce of the Colony exported was $1,293,428, leaving the value of exports of foreign origin to be $942,467, or 42 per cent. of the total.

Exports to the United Kingdom were $302,770, equal to 13 per cent. of the total, and consisted chiefly of mahogany, cedar, logwood, fustic, coconuts, and some copra, all the produce of the Colony. In 1914 exports to the United Kingdom were valued at $307,066 and were only 10 per cent. of the whole exports.

The United States took 80 per cent. of the exports, much about the same as they took in 1914. Most of the imports from the neighbouring countries that were subsequently exported were sent to the United States.

Exports to Guatemala were $7,485, more than in 1914, while those to Honduras and Mexico were $32,033 and $72,486 less respectively.

In the case of Honduras the shrinkage is noticeable to some extent in nearly every article of food and clothing, but it is particularly so in wines and spirits. The export of these two commodities alone dropped in value from $38,644 in 1914 to $19,128 last year. This decline is reflected in the reduced Customs rents collected from goods in the Government warehouses.

Exports to Canada were valued at $10,976 and consisted entirely of sapodilla gum.

The chief articles exported and their values for 1914 and 1915 were :—

Article.	1914.	*Value.* $	1915.	*Value.* $
Bananas (bunches).	673,433	169,167	486,420	116,518
Cacao (lb.) ..	20,608	2,837	19,378	2,440
Cedar (feet) ..	921,386	60,765	542,413	34,692
Coconuts (number)	9,315,040	163,305	8,268,530	145,317
Logwood (tons) ..	1,750	33,250	1,975	36,325
Mahogany (feet) ..	13,858,327	941,673	6,907,123	479,064
Plantains (number)	1,990,650	16,050	1,082,442	8,476
Rubber (lb.) ..	5,054	1,934	2,377	1,430
Rum (gallons) ..	6,207	4,226	2,349	1,935
Sapodilla gum (lb.)	3,461,809	1,125,519	3,467,696	1,231,655
Sponges (lb.) ..	922	496	5,641	2,807
Sugar (lb.) ..	64,430	2,674	70,365	2,731
Tortoise Shell (lb.)	2,028	10,848	10	58

Shipments of bananas and plantains fell off considerably last year. The decrease in the export of mahogany was attributable in some measure to the lack of tonnage, but was chiefly due to dullness in the world's markets. Sales in England were only little more than half of those of a normal year and as the stock carried over from 1914 was heavy imports into England in 1915 were very limited. The quantity that came from outside the Colony and was shipped through the Colony was 829,856 feet as compared with 4,687,503 in 1914, and the quantity of local mahogany shipped was 6,077,257 feet as compared with 9,170,824 feet in 1914.

The decrease in rum shipped was due to the obstacles placed in the way of smuggling to the neighbouring Republics.

Of the 3,467,696 lb. of sapodilla gum shipped 1,443,758 lb. appears as native gum and the rest was imported from Mexico and Guatemala. Too much reliance can not be placed on the figures for native gum shipped as some gum no doubt gets into the Colony across the frontier without being declared to at the Customs Stations and, mixed with native gum, appears on export as a product of the Colony. Some attention was paid during the year to the copra industry; 110,955 lb., valued at $5,741, were exported—48,444 lb., valued at $2,567, were also exported, but this was not the produce of the Colony. The quantity of sponges exported increased owing to the operations of a Greek who was engaged for some time in gathering them by means of diving apparatus.

Ports.

Besides Belize, Stann Creek, Punta Gorda and Corozal are ports of entry. Stann Creek is the principal port of shipment for bananas, as it is the terminus of the Government Railway line which brings down the United Fruit Company's bananas from their farm at Middlesex as well as bananas from other farms on the railway line. The trade of Punta Gorda has declined a good deal since the Government bond there was closed. Corozal owes its importance to its being the chief town of the district in the Colony where the manufacture of sugar and rum is carried on. From its proximity to Payo Obispo in Yucatan a considerable trade has been done for years with that place. Owing to the shutting down of large mahogany works and other domestic causes trade with that port has been affected to a serious extent in the last two years.

Excise.

All the rum manufactured was made at the distilleries in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. There are no distilleries in the other Districts. Corozal has seven stills and Orange Walk two. The quantity of rum made was 56,800 gallons, and the quantity exported 2,257 gallons. The export trade has, for reasons I have mentioned above, considerably fallen off. $776.00 was paid in licences to manufacture rum during the year.

Shipping.

The following table shows the nationality. number, description, and tonnage of vessels entered and cleared in 1914 and 1915.

Entered.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam	1914	138	258,683	102	75,649	160	108,419
	1915	29	39,674	158	253,647	131	97,952
Sailing	1914	369	8,197	50	1,185	106	1,817
	1915	215	7,987	10	238	69	728

Cleared.

Class of Ship.	Year.	British.		American.		Others.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Steam	1914	143	270,256	186	73,335	165	115,281
	1915	27	35,679	160	269,178	127	89,000
Sailing	1914	374	8,113	46	1,141	130	1,898
	1915	216	8,030	12	260	78	808

During 1915, the gross tonnage inwards was 400,226, and outwards 402,955. The decrease in the number of British steamships that entered and cleared was due to the United Fruit Company's steamers having been taken off British register and placed under the American flag. The Scrutton line of steamers from London also ceased coming for mahogany, being required for more important work elsewhere in connection with the War.

The tonnage entered (*with cargoes*) was 311,883 as against 325,149 in 1914.

The tonnage cleared (*with cargoes*) was 291,250 as against 295,286 in 1914.

The number of ships registered in the Colony during the year was twelve, of 151 tons, seven of which were sailing and the remainder motor boats.

Prosecutions.

There were twelve convictions for smuggling during the year and the fines paid into the Treasury as a result of these convictions amounted to $1,285.00.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-two Ordinances were passed. None of these was disallowed. The following were the most important :—

Ordinance No. 1 provides for Compulsory Education in certain cases by enabling the Governor, with the consent of the Education Board, to declare any area to be a Compulsory Attendance Area, and sets up machinery for the proper reporting of absences and the infliction of fines in suitable cases.

Ordinance No. 16 makes provision for the protection of certain wild birds.

Ordinance No. 25 amends the Law relating to the hiring of labourers for work outside the Colony.

Ordinance No. 27 applies the (Imperial) Army Act to members of the Volunteer Force while serving outside the Colony.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The system of primary education in the Colony has been established under the provisions of the "Education Ordinance, 1892." Under that Ordinance, which came into operation on the 1st January, 1894, a Central Board of Education was created consisting of the Governor as President, the members of the Executive Council, and five other members appointed by the Governor. The various religious denominations are represented on the Board. Most of the schools receive aid from the Government in the forms (1) of a capitation grant on the average monthly attendance; (2) of grants on account of pupil teachers employed in accordance with the Education Rules; (3) of needlework grants and grants for industrial instruction to schools in the out-districts; and (4) of bonuses on examination results. The expenditure of the funds voted by the Legislature in respect of education is controlled by the Central Board.

A step in the direction of compulsory education has been made through the introduction of Ordinance No. 1 of 1915 : *see Section III above.*

The amount expended from Government funds on the primary schools during the calendar year 1915 was $20,797.38, which comprised the following items :—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	18,267.91
Grants on account of pupil teachers	1,123.84
Grants for needlework	259.75
Grants for agriculture	7.50
Bonuses on examination results, 1914	1,014.55
Grants on buildings, furniture, and apparatus ..	123.83

In addition, the Government contributed a sum of $1,881.03 towards expenses of administration, making in all $22,678.41. Including this amount, the total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $32,588.61.

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (3,912) was $8.33. The following statement shows the cost as compared with the preceding year:—

	1914.	1915.
	$	$
Paid by Government	5.87	5.80
School Fees	.91	.76
Voluntary Contributions.. ..	2.85	1.77
Total ..	9.63	8.33

The average attendances during 1913, 1914, and 1915 were 3,543, 3,323 and 1,912 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 54. There were 53 in 1913 and 54 in 1914.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,528, as compared with 5,201 in 1913 and 5,295 in 1914.

There were also in operation six unaided primary schools, with 230 in average daily attendance.

The sum of $897.01 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1915, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Five candidates passed the Junior and ten the Preliminary Examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1915:—

Institutions.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital..	40·73
Corozal Hospital	4·96
Orange Walk Hospital..	4·85
Stann Creek Hospital	8·2
Punta Gorda Hospital..	9·10
Belize:—	
Lunatic Asylum	70·31
Poor-house	35·82

Savings Bank.

There are six savings banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1915, was 932. Deposits amounted to $42,684.74, and withdrawals to $52,637.68. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1915 was $104,312.79.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $100,000.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 102 non-commissioned officers and men—the full establishment. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

The total number of prisoners committed to all the prisons in the Colony for penal imprisonment was 373, and the daily average number of prisoners in Belize Prison was 65·21.

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 43 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There was one execution.

The number of offences reported to the police during the year 1915 was 1,162, or 12 more than in 1914. The number of persons summarily convicted was 1,148, or 81 more than in 1914.

Informations were filed against 45 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 37 cases and for the prisoner in 5. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in three cases.

There was one conviction for murder.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 41,928, consisting of 21,041 males and 20,887 females.

The death rate was 26·2 per 1,000 compared with 28·1 in 1914. As usual, the principal cause of death was malarial fever.

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1910–1914, inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1915 :—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1910–14.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1915.
Indian	77·50	88·35
Carib	56·98	48·66
Negro	53·96	58·88
Other races	62·81	61·55

The birth-rate was 40·092 and the mortality 26·474 per thousand of the estimated mean population.

The excess of births over deaths was 571.

The number of illegitimate births was 695 out of a total of 1,681, or 41·35 per cent.

Three hundred and sixty-nine marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 8·80 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The following table gives the number of births, marriages, and deaths, and the rate per 1,000 of births and deaths for the last five years :—

Year.	Births.	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Marriages.	Deaths.	Death-rate per 1,000.
1911	1,730	42·4	412	1,012	24·8
1912	1,654	40·5	402	1,015	24·9
1913	1,653	40·15	417	1,080	26·2
1914	1,796	42·	370	1,169	28·139
1915	1,681	40·092	369	1,110	26·474

During 1915 the excess of male over female births was 3 ; and of female over male deaths 64.

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1906–1915 in Belize was 85·16 inches ; the maximum (130·93 inches) being in 1911, and the minimum (63·76 inches) in 1910. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell, and 1913 the largest. The latter year, it may be pointed out, approximated very closely to the year 1911, both in the amount of rainfall and as regards the number of days on which rain actually fell. The average number of days on which rain fell during the years 1906–1915 was 127.

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $15,337, as compared with $17,430, in 1914.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $25,727, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $10,000, making a total expenditure of $35,727. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $3,667.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad during the year were as follows :—

Ordinary Letters	241,408
Registered Articles	10,477
Postcards	11,720
Newspapers, Books, &c.	137,238
Postal Parcels	10,789

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table :—

Ordinary Letters	88,730
Registered Articles	3,401
Postcards	703
Newspapers and Books	16,463
Parcels	1,487

The working expenses of the telegraph and telephone system amounted to $11,698, and the receipts to $11,711.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

The Colony is also in wireless communication with New Orleans and Jamaica.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The Colony received a compliment at the beginning of the year when the honour of K.C.M.G. was conferred on the Governor, His Excellency Sir Wilfred Collet.

A severe loss was sustained by the Legislative Council and the Colony through the death of the Honourable Alan Dredge, who with his wife perished in the "Lusitania," when that ship was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland on the 7th May, 1915. The vacancy on the Legislative Council has been filled by the appointment of the Hon. W. F. C. Stuart.

The financial position proved more satisfactory than had been anticipated, the actual revenue for the financial year 1915–16 amounting to $518,447 as against the revised Estimate of $480,443 and as against a total revenue of $513,149 for the year 1914–1915, while the total expenditure amounted to $555,593 as against the revised estimate of $568,237. The revenue was only kept up by means of extra taxation. The fact that the balance due to depositors in the Savings Bank on March 31st, 1916, was $104,442 as against $114,859 on March 31st, 1915, shows that there has been no abnormal run on the Savings

Bank and that depositors retain full confidence in the general financial stability of the Colony. Penny postage with the United States of America came into operation on the 1st March, 1915, and a system of insurance of parcels by post with the United Kingdom was introduced in September.

The labour situation at the beginning of the year was a source of considerable anxiety. During the hiring season 1914–1915 only 714 men were engaged at an average wage of $8.21 as against 1,717 labourers engaged at an average rate of $12.64 during the 1913–1914 season. In order to alleviate the situation and at the same time to assist one of the most important agricultural undertakings in the Colony arrangements were made enabling the Government to advance $60,000 to the Honduras Trading Co., Ltd., to be spent on the developments of Crown Land at the back of the Riversdale Estate. The period of the loan is for five years, interest is at the rate of 5 per cent. and during the continuance of the loan the Company are to pay the Government a weekly sum equal to 3½ cents for every marketable bunch of bananas sold or otherwise disposed of during the preceding week.

The health of the Colony was good. No epidemic of any kind occurred, but there was one imported case of small-pox in Belize. Prompt segregation and other measures prevented the spread of the disease. Lectures were given to the Police throughout the year on mosquito-borne diseases, tuberculosis, ankylostoma, etc. The subject of ankylostoma has continued to occupy the serious attention of the medical authorities, but the promised visit of an expert from the Rockefeller Institution had to be unavoidably postponed till early in 1916. The Colony was, however, visited in July and August by a scientific expedition from the St. Louis University which collected much useful information, not only about ankylostoma, but about various tropical diseases. It is sad to record that the leader of the expedition, Dr. E. N. Tobey, was one of the passengers by the ill-fated s.s. " Marowijne " and lost his life when that ship sank with all hands between Belize and New Orleans on August 14th, 1915.

The principal event of the year—and perhaps in the history of the Colony for the last fifty years—was the despatch of a contingent for active service abroad with the British West Indies Regiment. The men left the Colony on the 4th November, 1915, under the command of Lieutenant (now Captain) R. H. Furness, who holds the substantive appointment of Registrar General. The cost of recruiting and transport was borne by the Colony, which has also undertaken additional liabilities in regard to separation allowances, etc. Legislation was passed placing the men of the contingent under the Army Act while away from the Colony. Much enthusiasm marked the departure of the men, many of whom made considerable sacrifices in order to obey the call of duty. Admirable reports have been received of the high efficiency of the contingent and very great credit is due to the late Lieutenant-Col. Slack and Lieutenant (now Captain)

Matthews for the enrolment and organization of so fine a body of men. There was a strong probability at the end of the year that still further calls would be made on the Colony, and patriotic feeling ran high.

During the year very few additional public works have been undertaken. A new Court House and Police Station was completed at Benque Viejo. The canal between Sibun River and Manatee Bar was finished and the construction of various new roads throughout the Colony was undertaken.

R. Walter,

Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
880	St. Lucia	1914–1915
881	East Africa Protectorate	"
882	Imperial Institute	1914
883	Nyasaland	1914–1915
884	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	"
885	Weihaiwei	1915
886	Zanzibar	"
887	Fiji	"
888	Sierra Leone	"
889	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
890	Gambia	"
891	Trinidad and Tobago	"
892	Hong Kong	"
893	Ashanti	"
894	Gold Coast	"
895	Malta	1915–1916
896	St. Helena	1915
897	Seychelles	"
898	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1915–1916
899	Gibraltar	1915
900	Bahamas	1915–1916
901	Swaziland	"
902	Somaliland	"
903	Cyprus	"
904	Ceylon	1915
905	Straits Settlements	"
906	Grenada	1915–1916
907	Falkland Islands	1915
908	Bermuda	"
909	Jamaica	1915–1916
910	British Guiana	1915
911	Basutoland	1915–1916
912	Barbados	"
913	Leeward Islands	"
914	Uganda	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 957.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1916.

(For Report for 1915 see No. 915.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
March, 1918.

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LONDON, S.W. 1;
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;
or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN.

1918.

[Cd. 8973-6] *Price* 1*d. Net.*

No. 957.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1916.*

NOTE.—The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1917. The returns dealing with trade and customs are for the calendar year 1916.

I.—FINANCIAL.

On the 1st April, 1916, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $167,194 and on the 1st April, 1917, the surplus was $193,868.

The revenue of the Colony for the year was $640,462 and the expenditure $613,788. The local revenue of the various districts amounted to $50,964 and the local expenditure to $47,822.

Military expenditure exceeded that for the previous year by $46,493.07.

The Belize Improvement Loan of 1885 amounting to $27,875 was paid off.

The excess of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year was $193,868.20.

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, SHIPPING, AND EXCISE.

Trade.

The gross value of the trade of the Colony, that is, the imports and exports according to declarations made at the Custom House, amounted to $5,233,659, distributed as follows :—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total trade.
	$	$	$
British Kingdom	430,345	123,699	554,044
United Possessions	30,359	—	30,359
British Empire	460,704	123,699	584,403
United States	1,583,650	2,210,799	3,794,449
Guatemala	299,740	52,728	352,468
Mexico	220,947	120,469	341,416
Honduras	89,011	34,944	123,955
Other Foreign Countries	36,254	714	36,968
Foreign Countries	2,229,602	2,419,654	4,649,256
Grand Total	$2,690,306	$2,543,353	$5,233,659

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* NOTE.—A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 868 [Cd. 7622–59].

(C450) Wt.11/42 1000 & 90 4.18. B.&F.Ltd. Gp.11/2

Of the exports, 50 per cent. were the produce and manufactures of the Colony and 50 per cent. imported goods.

The falling off in trade with the United Kingdom, which amounted to $1,082,647 in 1913, was undoubtedly caused by the extraordinary conditions created by the war.

The Colony's trade with the United States has remained about stationary.

Within the last four years the trade with Mexico has declined considerably. This was mainly due to the curtailing of mahogany operations in the territory of Quintana Roo and the decline in chicle imports from that district.

Excise.

All the rum manufactured was made at the distilleries in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts, there being no distilleries in the other districts. The quantity of rum made was 55,615 gallons and the quantity exported 2,442 gallons.

SHIPPING.

Entered.

Nationality.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	338	40,966
United States	174	282,909
Other	307	109,500
Total	819	433,375

Cleared.

Nationality.	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
British	344	43,593
United States	158	279,625
Other	335	106,330
Total	837	429,548

This is about the average of the gross tonnage inwards and outwards during the last four years.

Eight sailing vessels and 15 motor boats were registered in the Colony during the year 1916, the total tonnage amounting to 277.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed. None of these was disallowed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1916, was $23,733.90, which comprised the following items :—

	$
Grants to schools on their average daily attendances	20,077.72
Grant on account of pupil teachers	1,439.55
Grants for needlework	300.00
Grants for agriculture	6.00
Bonuses on examination results, 1915	1,205.95
Grants on buildings, furniture, and apparatus	704.68

In addition, the Government contributed a sum of $2,112.33 towards expenses of administration, making in all $25,816.23. Including this amount, the total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $34,276.98.

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (4314) was $7.97, as compared with $8.33 in 1915.

The average attendances during 1914, 1915, and 1916 were 3,823, 3,912 and 4,314 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 58. There were 54 in 1914 and 54 in 1915.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,919, as compared with 5,295 in 1914 and 5,528 in 1915.

The sum of $845.06 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1916, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Three candidates passed the Junior and eight the Preliminary Examination.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1916.

Institutions.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital	50·059
Corozal Hospital	9·1
Orange Walk Hospital	7·22
Stann Creek Hospital	7·5
Punta Gorda Hospital	7·1
Belize :—	
Lunatic Asylum	72·63
Poor-house	39·34

Savings Bank.

There are six Savings Banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. The total number of depositors on 31st December, 1916, was 907. Deposits amounted to $47,043.07 and withdrawals to $46,207.87. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1916 was $105,147.99.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $100,000.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 102 non-commissioned officers and men—the full establishment. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, bookbinding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 45 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners and warders was good. There were five executions.

Informations were filed against 58 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 39 cases and for the prisoner in 13. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in six cases.

There were four convictions for murder and two for piracy.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 42,323, consisting of 21,101 males and 21,222 females.

The following table shows the number of deaths for every 100 births registered during the years 1911–1915 inclusive, according to their race classification, and as compared with 1916:—

Race.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1911–15.	Deaths for every 100 births, 1916.
Indian	80·76	100·5
Carib	52·05	43·79
Negro	53·89	59·51
Other races	63·51	57·99

The birth-rate was 39·056 and the mortality 26·321 per thousand of the estimated mean population.

The excess of births over deaths was 539.

The number of illegitimate births was 687 out of a total of 1,653, or 41·56 per cent.

Four hundred and thirteen marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·75 per 1,000 of the mean population.

During 1916 the excess of female over male births was 85; and of male over female deaths 150.

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1907–1916 in Belize was 92·347 inches; the maximum (130·93) being in 1911, and the minimum (63·76 inches) in 1910. But 1907 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell, and 1916 the largest. The average number of days on which rain fell during the years 1907–1916 was 133.

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the calendar year was $14,467, as compared with $15,337 in 1915.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $13,480, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $9,167, making a total expenditure of $22,647. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $3,490.

The numbers of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad during the year were as follows:—

Ordinary Letters	249,351
Registered Articles	12,676
Postcards	15,211
Newspapers, Books, &c.	148,034
Postal Parcels	14,419

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

Ordinary Letters	89,288
Registered Articles	3,282
Postcards	782
Newspapers and Books	15,484
Parcels	1,326

The working expenses of the telegraph and telephone system amounted to $15,629, and the receipts to $11,962.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

The Colony is also in wireless communication with New Orleans and Jamaica.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The events of the war and the preparation of a Second Contingent for service at the front overshadowed all other activities in the Colony during the year. After many delays a Contingent consisting of four officers and 406 men was sent off on the 15th July amidst much enthusiasm. This, with the First Contingent, made up some 534 men sent on active service—a not inappreciable percentage of the population when it is remembered that nearly 2/5ths of the people do not speak English habitually.

The patriotic action of the Corozal District Board in granting a sum of five hundred dollars from the Local Funds towards the cost of obtaining recruits in the District was greatly appreciated by the Legislative Council and Colony.

Our Roll of Honour for the war contained the deaths on active service of Privates A. Leacombe, R. A. Slusher, L. T. Osorio, S. E. Cadle, C. F. N. Anderson, E. Ellis, W. E. Gabourel, S. E. A. Kelvin, R. H. Laing and C. Smith.

The ravages of the war have not affected the Colony in the same degree as some other places. Owing to the demand by the Admiralty for mahogany, labourers' wages were good, and there was no lack of work. Some concern had been experienced regarding the uncertainty of the supply of foodstuffs, but there was never at any time in the year any serious shortage of food. Exports of food to the neighbouring Republics as well as mahogany were controlled by various Proclamations.

On the 15th October the Northern Districts of the Colony suffered from a rather severe hurricane which did much damage to coconut trees.

Some improvement in Education has resulted from the bringing into operation of the Education Ordinance, 1915, which gave the Education Board power to proclaim certain areas as compulsory attendance areas, a power which the Board has exercised in many of the outlying Districts where it seemed impossible to get parents to recognise the advantages of educating their children.

The Colony suffered sudden and severe losses in the untimely deaths of Lieutenant-Colonel Slack and P.C. Burgess at the hands of a murderer, and Dr. J. H. H. Harrison, the Principal Medical Officer, at the hands of a lunatic. The deepest sympathy of all classes was extended to the bereaved families.

On the 10th August a Gazette Notice appeared with an appeal, issued with the approval of the Secretary of State, to persons to subscribe to the Imperial War Loan. The Government immediately cabled for £10,000 worth of stock, a part of which was distributed to officials and other persons in the Colony.

The financial position of the Colony was well maintained during the year and the future outlook for business good. Savings Bank Deposits had increased from $104,442 on 31st March, 1916, to $108,768.91 on 31st March, 1917.

The health of the Colony had been on the whole good. Slight epidemics of dengue, measles, influenza, and chicken pox occurred, but were all of a mild type. Infantile mortality was unfortunately very high in most districts. During the first six months of the year Dr. Hackett, of the Rockefeller Institute, conducted an enquiry into the prevalence of ankylostomiasis (hookworm) throughout the Colony. He found an infection varying from practically nil on the Cayes to nearly 100 per cent. in some of the Indian villages. Determined steps were taken to combat the disease.

W. L. McKinstry,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
923	Hong Kong	1916
924	Weihaiwei	"
925	Zanzibar	"
926	Fiji	"
927	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
928	Cayman Islands	1915–1916
929	Seychelles	1916
930	Trinidad and Tobago	"
931	Gibraltar	"
932	Bahamas	1916–1917
933	St. Helena	1916
934	Ceylon	"
935	Malta	1916–1917
936	Gambia	1916
937	British Guiana	"
938	Falkland Islands	"
939	Sierra Leone	"
940	Straits Settlements	"
941	Cyprus	1916–1917
942	Grenada	"
943	Jamaica	"
944	Somaliland	"
945	Swaziland	"
946	Nigeria	1916
947	Basutoland	1916–1917
948	Gold Coast	1916
949	Ashanti	"
950	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1916–1917
951	Barbados	"
952	Leeward Islands	"
953	St. Vincent	"
954	Uganda	"
955	Nyasaland	"
956	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1916

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 994.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1917.

(For Report for 1916 see No. 957.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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1919.

[Cmd. 1-17]

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No. 994.

REPORT ON THE BLUE BOOK OF BRITISH HONDURAS FOR THE YEAR 1917.*

NOTE.—The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1918. The returns dealing with trade and customs are for the calendar year 1917.

I.—FINANCIAL.

On the 1st April, 1917, the surplus on the general revenue account of the Colony was $193,868, and on the 1st April, 1918, the surplus was $194,861.

The revenue of the Colony for the year was $676,227, and the expenditure $675,235. The local revenue of the various districts amounted to $50,964, and the local expenditure to $47,822.

The total Military expenditure amounted to $104,142.

The excess of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year was $194,861.

II.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, SHIPPING, AND EXCISE.

Trade.

The gross value of the trade of the Colony, that is, the total value of Imports and Exports according to declarations made at the Customs House amounted to $5,596,740, as compared with $5,233,659 in 1916, distributed as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Total Trade.
	$	$	$
United Kingdom ..	390,369	179,827	570,196
British Possessions ..	14,690		14,690
British Empire ..	405,059	179,827	584,886
United States	2,038,885	2,340,073	4,378,958
Guatemala	102,585	70,448	173,033
Mexico	120,014	161,838	281,852
Honduras	96,359	45,956	142,315
Other Foreign Countries	30,871	4,825	35,696
Foreign Countries ..	2,388,714	2,623,140	5,011,854
Grand Total ..	$2,793,773	$2,802,967	$5,596,740

Of the exports 64 per cent. were the produce and manufactures of the Colony and 36 per cent. imported goods.

The figures show a continual falling-off in the trade with the United Kingdom due to diminished tonnage and war restrictions on trade.

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* NOTE.—A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 868: [Cd. 7622-59].

(C550) Wt.1/155. 1,000 & 90. 5/19. B.&F.,Ltd. G.11/14.

All the rum manufactured was made at the distilleries in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts. There had been a steady decrease during the last five years in the amount of rum manufactured and consumed in the Colony. This is probably due not so much to improved moral conditions as to increased duties and to the shortage of molasses owing to the high prices obtainable for sugar. The cane crop also was smaller than usual owing to the hurricane of 1916.

The quantity of rum made was 48,318 gallons, as compared with 55,615 gallons in 1916, and the quantity exported was 2,442 gallons, as compared with 5,931 gallons in 1916.

EXCISE.—*Shipping.*

Nationality	Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.
Entered.		
British	305	38,018
United States	144	207,025
Other	239	104,663
Total	688	349,706
Cleared.		
British	322	37,376
United States	144	206,655
Other	237	103,250
Total	703	347,281

These figures show a reduction of, roughly, 20 per cent. on the average for the last three years of the total tonnage.

Eight vessels (3 sailing vessels and 5 motor boats) were registered in the Colony during the year, the total tonnage amounting to 86.

III.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-eight Ordinances were passed. None of these was disallowed.

IV.—EDUCATION.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1917, was $23,086.72, which comprised the following items:—

	$
Grants to school on their average daily attendances	19.787.81
Grant on account of pupil teachers	1,656.85
Grants for needlework	281.33
Grants for agriculture	6.00
Bonuses on examination results	1,158.10
Grants on buildings, furniture, and apparatus	202.63

In addition, the Government contributed a sum of $2,217.12 towards expenses of administration, making in all $25,303.84. Including this amount, the total cost of primary education in the aided schools of the Colony for the year was $37,864.00.

The total cost per head on the total daily average attendance (4,075) was $9.29, as compared with $7.97 in 1916.

The average attendances during 1915, 1916, and 1917 were 3,912. 4,314, and 4,075 respectively.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 61. There were 54 in 1915 and 58 in 1916.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,659 as compared with 5,528 in 1915 and 5,919 in 1916.

The sum of $922.03 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1916 and 1917, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates in 1916. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Five candidates passed the Junior and twelve the Preliminary Examination in 1917.

V.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor-House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1917.

Institutions.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital	46·62
Corozal Hospital	7·14
Orange Walk Hospital	5·77
Stann Creek Hospital	4·51
Punta Gorda Hospital	7·39
Belize :—	
Lunatic Asylum	70·45
Poor-house	45·50

Savings Bank.

There are six Savings Banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. It is estimated that the otal number of depositors on 31st December, 1917, was 950. Deposits amounted to $60,202.39 and withdrawals to $52,768.33. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1917 was $112,582.05.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds is $100,000.

VI.—JUDICIAL.

The actual strength of police was one superintendent, one assistant, one sergeant-major, and 98 non-commissioned officers and men—the full establishment. Special constables are engaged at Christmas time and also when required for quarantine.

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 46 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners was very good. There was one execution.

Informations were filed against 55 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 39 cases and for the prisoner in 7. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in nine cases.

There was one conviction for murder.

VII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 42,732, consisting of 21,308 males and 21,424 females.

The birth-rate was 40·275 and the mortality 31·288 per thousand of the estimated mean population.

The excess of births over deaths was 384.

The number of illegitimate births was 681 out of a total of 1,721 or 39·57 per cent.

Four hundred and forty-three marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 10·35 per 1,000 of the mean population.

During 1917 the excess of female over male births was 116, and of male over female deaths 45.

The average rainfall for the 10 years 1908–1917 in Belize was 80·608 inches; the maximum (130·93) being in 1911, and the minimum (63·76 inches) in 1910. But 1908 had the smallest number of days on which rain fell, and 1917 the largest. The average number of days on which rain fell during the years 1908–1917 was 143.

VIII.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

The total revenue of the Post Office for the financial year 1917–18 was $19,984 as compared with $14,467 in 1916.

The total expenditure for salaries and wages and all expenses of postal service (including money and postal order business) within the Colony was $17,513, and for conveyance of mails beyond the Colony $5,869, making a total expenditure of $23,382. Foreign transit dues for letters and parcels amounted to $1,374. The number of letters and other articles sent and received from abroad during the year were as follows:—

Ordinary Letters	295,252
Registered Articles	12,896
Postcards	9,872
Newspapers, Books, &c.	133,552
Postal Parcels	—

The amount of inland correspondence for the same period is given in the following table:—

Ordinary Letters	76,151
Registered Articles	2,923
Postcards	869
Newspapers and Books	13,713
Parcels	1,221

The estimated working expenses of the telegraph and telephone system amounted to $15,190, and the receipts to $9,684.

Foreign telegrams are sent from Corozal in this Colony to Payo Obispo in Yucatan, whence they are transmitted by the Mexican line.

The Colony is also in wireless communication with New Orleans and Jamaica.

IX.—GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The promotion of Sir Wilfred Collet, K.C.M.G., in March removed from the service of the Colony a commanding and vigorous personality at a somewhat critical moment. The Administration was then assumed by Mr. R. Walter, the Colonial Secretary, who received the honour of C.M.G. at the end of the year.

The constant and persistent rumours of German intrigues in Mexico, coupled with the publication of the famous Zimmermann Note, were a source of particular anxiety and led to great efforts being made to improve the numbers and equipment of the Territorial Forces. What was feared was an irruption into the northern part of the Colony by bands of Mexican desperadoes attracted by German gold, German promises, and the possibilities of loot. Recruiting campaigns were held and the local forces were largely increased and new posts formed both on the northern and on the western frontier. The actual expenditure on "War"—or rather defence—was $51,533, as against $10,000 appropriated in the Estimates for the year, while the total Military expenditure amounted to $104,142, as against $85,887 incurred in the preceding financial year. The response to the call for recruits was so widespread that it was unnecessary to introduce any form of compulsory service during the year. A Colonel of the West India Regiment stationed at Jamaica visited the Colony in May accompanied by four non-commissioned officers who did some excellent work, but it was not found necessary—as was at one time feared—to invite the assistance of Imperial troops for the defence of the Colony, and the Colonel and his party returned to Jamaica, their mission accomplished, in November.

Considerable impetus was given to the musketry shooting by the institution of an annual inter-unit competition with a Challenge Cup and great enthusiasm attended the opening meeting.

Despite the large sums voted in connexion with the Territorial Forces, the financial position of the Colony remained wonderfully good, the surplus on the general revenue account having actually increased from $167,194 on April 1st, 1917, to $194,861 on April 1st, 1918. This result was largely due to the trebling of the export duty on chicle, to increased revenue from Light and Wharf dues resulting from the abolition of the Mail Contract with the United Fruit Company, and to increased Revenues of Government property arising from licences and royalties in respect of mahogany and chicle. Expenditure on Public Works Extraordinary was kept down to a minimum. The Colony was also able to pay off the Belize Improvement Loan of 1887 amounting to £9,000 sterling without having to borrow from the Bank. Taking everything into consideration the financial position may justly be considered to give proper cause for satisfaction.

Early in the year it was realized that special attention must be paid to stimulating agricultural enterprise and to increasing the Colony's production of food-stuffs. Notices were issued broadcast warning the people of the absolute necessity of increasing local production of such articles as corn, beans, vegetables, and ground provisions, and pointing out that a shortage of the necessities of living in one part of the Empire would react to some extent on the Empire at large, and that by increasing local production Colonists would not only be safeguarding themselves but rendering patriotic service to the Empire at large.

There is no doubt that many people took this warning seriously, and it is probable that more corn, beans, etc., were produced in the

Colony during the year 1917 than at any previous time. The Government endeavoured to assist deserving planters by small loans and every encouragement was given to the formation of Agricultural Societies, but the fact remains that despite the richness of the soil this Colony cannot at present be considered an agricultural Colony. There is no agricultural tradition and there is no agricultural knowledge. Perhaps one of the most important events of the year was the appointment of an Agricultural Commission to enquire into the whole subject. The Commission was appointed in May: they took voluminous evidence and their Report published in October contains a mine of information regarding the agricultural possibilities and needs of the Colony. One great drawback to the advancement of agriculture is the lack of population; the strong men all are attracted by the high wages obtainable from cutting mahogany. Another drawback is the lack of communication and the consequent difficulty of finding a market for produce. The various recommendations made by the Commission have been considered but it is probable that some time will elapse before agriculture can be placed on a proper footing.

The health of the Colony was remarkably good and considerable progress was made in the campaign against the Hookworm disease, especially in the Orange Walk District, but much remains still to be done before the disease can be considered as finally stamped out.

Very satisfactory reports were received of the progress of the contingents sent to the Front. The Roll of Honour for the war contained the deaths on active service of Privates J. E. Diamond, C. Duncan, S. O. Gabourel, F. L. Ifield, and Sergeant J. W. Masson, while the winning of the Military Cross by 2nd Lieutenant Arthur Norman Usher, a Clerk in the Colonial Secretary's Office, will ever be regarded with deep pride and elation by the people of this Colony.

The Colony continued to subscribe liberally to various War Funds, and notably to the "Our Day" Fund of the Red Cross on behalf of which a Garden Fête organised by Mrs. R. Walter was held on the grounds of Government House. The Fête was an unqualified success and contributed no less than $1,755 towards the very satisfactory total, amounting to £1,300, collected through the patriotic energy of the Honourable C. Melhado, C.M.G.

The neighbouring Republic of Guatemala suffered a dreadful calamity in successive earthquakes which practically demolished the city, and it is pleasant to record that the Colony subscribed some $10,000 almost at once for the relief of the stricken inhabitants while medical supplies, tents, etc., were despatched under the charge of the Principal Medical Officer, Dr. Gann. There is no question that the prompt assistance given was deeply appreciated by the Government of that great and friendly Republic.

R. Walter,
Colonial Secretary

COLONIAL REPORTS &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
962	Ashanti	1917
963	Falkland Islands	"
964	Seychelles	"
965	Weihaiwei	"
966	Fiji	"
967	Solomon Islands	1917–1918
968	Grenada	"
969	Turks and Caicos Islands	1917
970	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
971	Ceylon	"
972	Hong Kong	"
973	Zanzibar	"
974	St. Helena	"
975	Malta	1917–1918
976	British Guiana	1917
977	St. Vincent	1917–1918
978	Bahamas	"
979	Gambia	1917
980	Jamaica	1917-1918
981	Gibraltar	1917
982	Bermuda	"
983	Swaziland	1917–1918
984	Trinidad	1917
985	Mauritius	"
986	Cyprus	1917–1918
987	Bechuanaland Protectorate	"
988	East Africa Protectorate	1916–1917
989	Barbados	1917–1918
990	Sierra Leone	1917
991	Straits Settlements	"
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-Percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1026.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1918.

(For Report for 1917 see No. 994.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
February, 1920.

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No. 1026.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1918.*

NOTE.—The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1919. The returns dealing with trade, customs, and other matters are for the calendar year 1918.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the year was $721,233 and the expenditure $670,737. The surplus on the general revenue account was, on the 1st April, 1918, $194,861, and on the 1st April, 1919, $245,357. The revenue included $7,663 as extraordinary revenue on account of sales of Crown land, new coins and loan funds. The expenditure included $61,185 on account of War expenditure, $10,036 on account of Public Works Extraordinary, and $3,913 on account of depreciation of Investments of Surplus Funds. Deducting abnormal revenue and expenditure :—

Normal Revenue was	$713,565
Normal Expenditure was	590,754
Excess of normal Revenue over Expenditure	$122,811

Compared with the previous financial year the principal increases in revenue were as follows :—

Customs	$83,442
Internal Taxation	16,837
Fees of Court or Office	4,892
Interest	3,186

The principal decreases were as follows :—

Light and Wharf Dues	$5,532
Revenue of Govt. Property	10,349
Post Office	2,955
Railway	6,823

Expenditure increased by $84,410 as compared with the previous year. The principal increases occurred in

Medical Department	$10,344
Miscellaneous	34,741
P. Works and Telegraph Recur.	7,197
War Expenditure	9,652

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* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 868: [Cd. 7622–59]

The increased cost of provisions and clothing caused increased expenditure in most Government Institutions. The revenue for the last three years was:—

1916–17	$640,462
1917–18	676,227
1918–19	721,233

The expenditure for the same years was:—

1916–17	613,788
1917–18	675,235
1918–19	670,737

The excess of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year was $245,357. The Public Debt was $874,800 and Sinking Fund $98,111. The net liability of the Colony was therefore $776,689. Expenditure on Defence Measures amounted to $61,185. This was in addition to the sums of $15,100 on the ordinary Military Force and $16,267 on Non-Effective Services.

The local revenue of the various districts amounted to $52,167.58 and the expenditure to $49,747.19.

II.—CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony in circulation at 31st March, 1919, was $476,027.75 of which $298,100 was in currency notes and $177,927.75 in silver and bronze.

Owing to the delay in getting new notes during the War, a considerable quantity of American notes was in circulation.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners of Currency at the end of the year against the note circulation amounting to $220,175.98 was on deposit with The Royal Bank of Canada where it had been transferred early in the War.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the note guarantees and depreciation fund were worth, at the 31st March, 1919, $83,389.50 the cost price being $99,117.45. The decrease in market value compared with the original cost was due to the general depreciation of all securities.

III.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, EXCISE, AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

1. The total value of Imports and Exports was $7,234,073, which exceeded that for 1917 by $2,000,414 and that for 1913—the year before the War—by $932,480.

Trade with principal countries was valued as follows:—

With the United Kingdom	$367,117
,, ,, ,, States of America	5,587,843
,, ,, Republic of Honduras	586,296
,, Mexico	456,266
,, Canada	13,558
,, Jamaica	23,278
,, Guatemala	175,757

Trade with the United States of America formed over 77% of the total trade. This includes all the mahogany shipped, which, although appearing as an export to the United States of America, was really an export to the United Kingdom. Apart from this, trade with the United Kingdom has naturally declined of recent years as a consequence of the War and the lack of tonnage.

Imports.

2. Imports were valued at $3,565,416, as compared with $2,793,773 in 1917 and $3,185,368 in 1913. $100,090 worth of cattle and $12,193 worth of horses and mules were imported from the Republics of Honduras and Guatemala. The value of rice imported was $94,817, of salted fish $8,867, of fresh fruit and vegetables $23,918, of condensed or preserved milk $79,709, and of sugar from neighbouring Republics $79,351. These are commodities that might have been produced in the Colony, and amount in the aggregate to $398,945 in value.

The value of imports from various countries was :—

United Kingdom	$355,215
British Possessions	44,970
United States of America	2,181,149
Guatemala	150,395
Honduras	562,416
Mexico	255,653

From Canada came chiefly whisky, of which $13,409 worth was imported. From Jamaica came sugar to the value of $18,700, and from Honduras and Guatemala to the value of $44,277 and $16,374 respectively, making up the total of imported sugar to $79,351 in value.

Sapodilla gum or chicle was the principal import both from Mexico and Guatemala. Nearly all foodstuffs as well as a large percentage of clothing and other material came from the United States of America.

Exports.

3. Exports were valued at $3,668,657 or $1,865,690 more than in 1917. Of this amount the produce and manufactures of the Colony were valued at $1,953,457 and that of other places at $1,715,200. So that nearly half the Colony's exports were the produce of other countries exported via the Colony. Exports to the United States of America were valued at $3,406,694 or 92% of the total exports. Of this amount the mahogany and cedar exported were valued at $1,044,710.

The value of exports to various countries was as follows :—

To United Kingdom	$11,902
,, ,, States	3,406,694
,, Guatemala	25,362
,, Honduras	23,840
,, Mexico	200,613

Notwithstanding the restrictions on exports during the year the value of exports to Mexico was higher by $38,730 than in 1917. This was made up in a great measure of spirits and wines, sugar (the produce of other countries), soap, rice, hardware, lumber, cotton goods, wearing apparel, boots and shoes, and other articles imported in transit. It also includes exports of food to chicle and mahogany camps composed of persons belonging to the Colony.

The value of cohune nuts exported was $24,742 and of cohune shells $1,338.

Shipments of coconuts, mahogany and chicle were higher in value than in previous years, while shipments of bananas were lower. There were no shipments of logwood.

Excise.

4. The quantity of rum made, exported, and consumed in the last three years was :—

Year	Made	Exported	Consumed in Colony
1916	55,615 gals.	2,442 gals.	53,173 gals.
1917	48,318 „	5,931 „	42,387 „
1918	49,028 „	1,469 „	47,559 „

In the year before the War the consumption of rum in the Colony was 67,976 gallons—that is, more than 20,000 gals. over what it was last year. The high prices obtained for sugar were the cause of the reduced manufacture of rum and consequently of the decreased consumption of the liquor.

SHIPPING.

(For Belize only.)

448 sailing vessels, 169 steamships, and 20 motor boats (total tonnage 161,286) entered in 1918, and approximately the same number cleared. Of the vessels entered 308 were British.

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Seventeen Ordinances were passed as against twenty-eight in the previous year. One of these Ordinances, No. 15 of 1918, relating to the making of regulations to relieve the Government from liability for damages done to passengers or goods carried on the Government Railway, was disallowed.

V.—EDUCATION.

The amount expended on the primary schools, during the calendar year 1918, was $25,769.81.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 62. There were 54 in 1915, 58 in 1916, and 61 in 1917.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,341, as compared with 5,659 in 1917.

The sum of $989.28 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1917 and 1918, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates in 1917. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Nine candidates passed the Junior and five the Preliminary Examination in 1918.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum, and Poor-House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1918.

Institutions.	Daily Average.
Belize Hospital	46·03
Corozal Hospital	8·62
Orange Walk Hospital	5·81
Stann Creek Hospital	4·85
Toledo Hospital	6·73
Belize :—	
Lunatic Asylum	66·04
Poor-House	49·25

Savings Bank.

There are six Savings Banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. It is estimated that the total number of depositors on 31st December, 1917, was 950. Deposits amounted to $56,799.87, and withdrawals to $53,379.88. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1918 was $116,002.04.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds was $100,000.

VII.—JUDICIAL.

Informations were filed against 55 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 37 cases and for the prisoner in 4. A nolle prosequi was entered by the Attorney-General in eight cases.

There was one conviction for manslaughter.

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, &c. Discipline was good, and there were only 59 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners was good except during the influenza epidemic in October. There was one death from pneumonia There was no execution.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 43,368, consisting of 21,673 males and 21,695 females.

The birth-rate was 41·252 and the mortality 49·368 per thousand of the estimated mean population.

The excess of deaths over births was 342.

The number of illegitimate births was 702 out of a total of 1,799 or 39·02 per cent.

Four hundred and eighty-nine marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 11·28 per 1,000 of the mean population.

During 1918 the excess of female over male births was 3.

IX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Foreign telegrams may be sent via the Mexican lines or by wireless via Swan Island.

(No statistics are available under this head owing to the destruction of records in the fire of August.)

X.—RAINFALL.

Rain fell on 186 days in the year in Belize and amounted to 64·66 inches. The months from August to November were the rainiest in the year.

The maximum rainfall recorded was in 1911, when 130·93 inches fell, and the minimum in 1910, when 63·76 inches fell.

GENERAL.

Until the arrival in the Colony of Mr. W. Hart Bennett, C.M.G., as Governor in April, 1918, Mr. R. Walter, the Colonial Secretary, administered the Government. On Mr. Hart Bennett's death on the 4th September, from an injury received while attending a large fire in Belize, Mr. Walter again administered the Government and continued to do so until the close of the year. In his short term of office as Governor Mr. Hart Bennett had gained the admiration and affection of the people to a remarkable degree, and on his death widespread regret was expressed and the deepest sympathy shown to his sister, Miss Hart Bennett.

The Roll of Honour for the War contained the deaths on active service of the following :—

Privates S. Brown, E. W. Gabourel, F. Gabb, —Burgess, I. Walker, Lance-Corporal I. Baker, and Lieutenant A. N. Usher, M.C. with bar.

Early in the year steps were taken to control the prices of foodstuffs by the appointment of a Food Control Committee with the Chief Justice as Chairman under Ordinance No. 2 of 1918. This Committee kept a close watch on importations and were in constant touch with the United States War Trade Board and the British Ambassador at Washington on the subject of the food supplies for the Colony.

A Committee was also appointed early in the year to report on the lines on which an Industrial School could be established. A valuable report was made but it was not found possible to give effect to the recommendations during the year.

As a result of reports of threatened attacks on the Colony by enemy submarines and enemies in a neighbouring Republic, the Territorial Forces were reorganized and a Staff Officer sent from England to advise on measures to be taken to defend the Colony. The Staff Officer was Major R. H. Johnston, D.S.O., of the Lincolnshire Regiment.

The establishment of a local branch of the Boy Scouts Association was brought about mainly through the energy of the Honourable G. E. Grabham, M.L.C. It was widely supported both by the Government and the people.

While the Estimates for the year were under consideration the unofficial members of the Council proposed that the junior members of the Civil Service should be granted a bonus in addition to their salaries to relieve them from the distress caused by the increased cost of living. This was approved by the Secretary of State and it was decided that those public servants in receipt of less than $500 per annum should get 12% bonus, those of $500 and under $1,500 10% bonus, those of $1,500 per annum and up to $2,000 per annum 7% bonus. No bonus was granted to those in receipt of more than $2,000 per annum.

With most other places in the world the Colony suffered from a severe influenza epidemic. Great distress and suffering prevailed. Whole families, especially among the Indian villages, were practically wiped out. In many cases no nurses or doctors could be obtained to visit the sick. Splendid work was done by private individuals in assisting the Government to deal with the situation. Sub-Committees were appointed in all the districts, and food, milk, and medicines were supplied wherever most needed—the Legislative Council voting the necessary funds. The principal Committee, under Mr. J. J. Franco in Belize, deserve especial mention for their services. In the chief towns of the Colony orders were issued under an emergency Ordinance passed by the Legislative Council, to prohibit gatherings in churches, schools, and places of entertainment. The death of Dr. Winter was due in a measure to his self sacrificing and unsparing efforts to attend to the sick after he himself was attacked by the disease.

The Colony was proud to have been of material use to the Empire in the prosecution of the War by supplying large quantities of mahogany for making aeroplane propellers. The export of the wood was conserved and controlled solely for military uses. A representative of the Admiralty was present in the Colony to make contracts for the purchase of the year's output.

On the 17th August one of the most disastrous fires in the history of the Colony took place. Starting between the Post Office and the District Commissioner's Office in an old wooden building it spread rapidly to adjacent buildings, and the Court House, containing most of the public offices, as well as the offices and stores of Messrs. Dragten, Price, John Harley & Co., and Krug & Co., were entirely destroyed. A Police Court enquiry was held into the origin of the fire and large rewards offered for information as to its cause, but without results.

Notwithstanding the War, the volume of trade for the year was greater than ever before in the history of the Colony. Wages were comparatively high, but the prices of the common necessaries of life increased correspondingly. The agricultural industry suffered considerably for want of labour. What little labour there was was attracted by higher pay to mahogany cutting and the gathering of chicle from the forests for making chewing gum. There was a temporary revival of logwood cutting for the dye industry but it did not last long owing to a big drop in prices.

During the year subscriptions were freely given to Soldiers' and Red Cross funds. Under Miss Hart Bennett, the Governor's sister, an energetic campaign in the interests of the latter fund was successfully carried out, with gratifying results.

As the voluntary system of service in the local Forces did not produce the number of men thought necessary for the defence of the Colony a Compulsory Service Ordinance was passed. Steps were being taken to prepare a register of eligible men and to select them for service by ballot under the Ordinance when the news of the signing of the Armistice rendered further action unnecessary.

Vigorous steps to reduce the prevalence of hookworm, which, with malaria, saps the vitality of the people in tropical countries to such an alarming extent, especially among the Indians, were carried out by the Medical Department, with favourable results. The 25th anniversary of the wedding of their Majesties the King and Queen was celebrated as a public holiday, when resolutions were passed by both Councils expressing the loyal congratulations of the people of the Colony on the event.

News was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies in November that Mr. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary of Fiji, had been appointed to be Governor of the Colony. His Excellency had not arrived by the end of the year.

The glorious news of the signing of the Armistice on 11th November was received with the deepest satisfaction in the Colony and a telegram expressing the appreciation of the people at the successful conclusion of the War was sent to the Secretary of State for the Colonies to be laid before the Throne. The year 1918 will always be remembered as marking one of the most important events in the history of the world—the cessation of the Great War and the overthrow of Germany and Prussianism.

W. L. McKinstry,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

COLONIAL REPORTS, &c.

The following recent reports, &c., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	Colony, &c.	Year.
992	Leeward Islands	1917–1918
993	Uganda	"
994	British Honduras	1917
995	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1917–1918
996	Nyasaland	"
997	Basutoland	"
998	Gold Coast	1917
999	Weihaiwei	1918
1000	Zanzibar	"
1001	Hong Kong	"
1002	Somaliland	1917–1918
1003	Cayman Islands	"
1004	Malta	1918–1919
1005	Seychelles	1918
1006	Fiji	"
1007	Ceylon	"
1008	Nigeria	1917
1009	Turks and Caicos Islands	1918
1010	St. Helena	"
1011	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	"
1012	Ashanti	"
1013	East Africa Protectorate	1917–1918
1014	British Guiana	1918
1015	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1918–1919
1016	Basutoland	"
1017	Falkland Islands	1918
1018	Trinidad	"
1019	Bermuda	"
1020	Swaziland	1917–1918
1021	Somaliland	1918–1919
1022	Gibraltar	1918
1023	Grenada	1918–1919
1024	Jamaica	"
1025	Cyprus	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	Colony, &c.	Subject.
79	Northern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1907–8 and 1908–9.
80	Nyasaland	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
81	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1908–9.
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, &c.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, &c.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1070.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1919.

(For Report for 1918 see No. 1026.)

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.
April, 1921.

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1921.

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No. 1070.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

GENERAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1919.*

Note.—The financial returns in this report, except where otherwise stated, are for the year ended 31st March, 1920. The returns dealing with Trade, Customs, and other matters are for the calendar year 1919.

I.—FINANCIAL.

The revenue of the year was $1,065,622 and the expenditure $981,816. The surplus on the general revenue account was, on the 1st April, 1919, $245,357, and on the 1st April, 1920, $329,163. The revenue included $36,770 as extraordinary revenue on account of sales of Crown land, new coins and loan funds. The expenditure included $67,562 on account of War expenditure, $21,554 on account of Public Works Extraordinary, and $666 on account of depreciation of Investments of Surplus Funds.

Deducting abnormal revenue and expenditure:—

	$
Normal Revenue was	1,028,827
Normal Expenditure was	667,568
Excess of normal Revenue over Expenditure	361,259

Compared with the previous financial year the principal increases in revenue were as follows:—

	$
Customs	254,834
Internal Taxation	25,467
Fees of Court or Office	5,042
Revenues of Government Property ..	15,729
Telegraphs	5,505
Miscellaneous Receipts	9,935

The principal decreases were as follows:—

	$
Post Office	1,078
Railway	2,173

---

* A Sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 868: [Cd. 7622-59].

Expenditure increased by $311,079 as compared with the previous year. The principal increases occurred in:—

	$
Treasury and Customs	8,313
Telephone and Telegraph	24,812
Police Department	20,197
Medical Department	9,438
Survey Department	2,144
P. Works extraordinary	11,517
War Expenditure	6,377
Expenses due to Riots	181,454
Contribution to Returned Soldiers' Committee	10,000
Coinage	29,759

The increased cost of provisions and clothing caused increased expenditure in most Government Institutions. The revenue for the last three years was:—

	$
1917–18	676,227
1918–19	721,233
1919–20	1,065,622

The expenditure for the same years was:—

	$
1917–18	675,235
1918–19	670,737
1919–20	981,816

The excess of Assets over Liabilities at the end of the year was $329,163. The Public Debt was $874,800 and Sinking Fund $153,528. The net liability of the Colony was therefore $721,272. Expenditure on Defence Measures amounted to $67,562. This was in addition to the sums of $14,056 on the ordinary Military Force, and $8,480 on Non-Effective Services.

II.—CURRENCY.

The currency of the Colony in circulation at 31st March, 1920, was $613,669, of which $444,859 was in currency notes and $177,927·75 in silver and bronze.

Owing to the delay in getting new notes during the War, a considerable quantity of American notes was in circulation.

The coin reserve held by the Commissioners of Currency at the end of the year against the note circulation amounting to $331,291 was on deposit with the Royal Bank of Canada, where it had been transferred early in the War.

The investments held by the Commissioners on account of the note guarantees and depreciation fund were worth, at the 31st March, 1920, $115,132·65, the cost price being $130,795·99. The decrease in market value compared with the original cost was due to the general depreciation of all securities.

III.—IMPORTS, EXPORTS, EXCISE AND SHIPPING.

Trade.

1. The total value of Imports and Exports was $9,144,025, which exceeded that for 1918 by $1,909,952 and that for 1913—the year before the War—by $932,480.

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Trade with principal countries was valued as follows :—

	$
With the United Kingdom	1,072,897
,, ,, ,, States of America	6,402,918
,, ,, Republic of Honduras..	453,012
,, Mexico	854,050
,, Canada	41,409
,, Jamaica	19,554
,, Guatemala	183,539

Trade with the United States of America formed over 70 per cent. of the total trade. This includes all the mahogany shipped, which, although appearing as an export to the United States of America, was really an export to the United Kingdom. Apart from this, trade with the United Kingdom has naturally declined of recent years as a consequence of the War and the lack of tonnage.

Imports.

2. Imports were valued at $4,695,216, as compared with $3,565,416 in 1918 and $3,185,368 in 1913. $66,159 worth of cattle was imported from the Republics of Honduras and Guatemala. The value of rice imported was $98,659, of salted fish $6,853, of fresh fruit and vegetables $32,613, of condensed or preserved milk $162,024, and of sugar from neighbouring Republics $56,950.

The value of imports from various countries was :—

	$
United Kingdom	405,017
British Possessions	123,897
United States of America	2,945,964
Guatemala	181,644
Honduras	414,682
Mexico	574,763

From Canada came chiefly whisky, of which $20,428 worth was imported. From Jamaica came sugar to the value of $10,492, and from Honduras and Guatemala to the value of $24,101 and $45,560 respectively, making up the total of imported sugar to $80,153 in value.

Sapodilla gum or chicle was the principal import both from Mexico and Guatemala. Nearly all foodstuffs as well as a large percentage of clothing and other material came from the United States of America.

Exports.

3. Exports were valued at $4,448,809 or $780,152 more than in 1918. Of this amount the produce and manufactures of the Colony were valued at $2,004,012 and that of other places at $244,797. So that nearly half the Colony's exports were the produce of other countries exported viâ the Colony. Exports to the United States of America were valued at $3,456,954. Of this amount the mahogany and cedar exported were valued at $580,796.

The value of exports to various countries was as follows :—

	$
To United Kingdom	667,880
,, ,, States	3,456,954
,, Guatemala	1,895
,, Honduras	38,330
,, Mexico	279,287

Notwithstanding the restrictions on exports during the year the value of exports to Mexico was higher by $78,674 than in 1918. This was made up in a great measure of spirits and wines, sugar (the produce of other countries), soap, rice, hardware, lumber, cotton goods, wearing apparel, boots and shoes, and other articles imported in transit. It also includes exports of food to chicle and mahogany camps composed of persons belonging to the Colony.

Shipments of coconuts, mahogany and chicle were higher in value than in previous years, while shipments of bananas were lower. There were no shipments of logwood.

Excise.

4. The quantity of rum made, exported and consumed in the last three years was :—

Year.	*Made.*	*Exported.*	*Consumed in Colony.*
1917	48,318 gals.	5,931 gals.	42,387 gals.
1918	49,028 ,,	1,469 ,,	47,559 ,,
1919	51,865 ,,	479 ,,	51,386 ,,

Shipping.

The following are the Shipping Statistics :—

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*No. of Vessels.* Sailing.	*No. of Vessels.* Steam.	*Total Tonnage.*
British	193	101	43,302
Honduranean	80	—	3,240
Mexican	47	—	776
Norwegian	—	98	67,804
United States	—	50	36,374
Other	19	9	2,203

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing.*	*Steam.*	*Total Tonnage.*
British	193	105	39,764
Honduranean	76	—	3,069
Mexican	53	—	826
Norwegian	—	103	72,009
United States	—	51	32,932
Other	20	8	2,242

The total tonnage during the last four years was :—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1916	433,375	429,548	862,923
1917	349,706	347,281	696,987
1918	(Not available.)		
1919	153,699	150,842	304,541

IV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-seven Ordinances were passed as against twenty-two in the previous year. None of these was disallowed.

V.—EDUCATION.

The amount expended on the primary schools during the calendar year 1919 was $25,911·63.

The total number of schools in operation during the whole or part of the year was 57. There were 58 in 1916, 61 in 1917, and 62 in 1918.

The total average number of pupils on the roll was 5,482 as compared with 5,841 in 1918.

The sum of $950·46 was expended on account of the Cambridge Local Examinations held in December, 1918 and 1919, the greater portion of which amount was for bonuses paid to teachers for successful candidates in 1918. The results of the examinations were satisfactory. Eight candidates passed the Junior and seven the Preliminary Examination in 1919.

VI.—GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

Hospitals, Asylum and Poor-House.

The following table shows the daily average number of patients under treatment and care in the various institutions during the year 1919 :—

Institutions.	*Daily Average.*
Belize Hospital	45·63
Corozal Hospital	8·64
Orange Walk Hospital	6·11
Stann Creek Hospital	6·32
Toledo Hospital	7·14
Belize—	
Lunatic Asylum	56·45
Poor-House	44·25

Savings Bank.

There are six Savings Banks conducted by the Government, one in the chief town of each district. It is estimated that the total number of depositors on 31st December, 1919, was 1,050. Deposits amounted to $109,875, and withdrawals to $68,097. The total amount to the credit of depositors at the end of 1919 was $157,780.

The rate of interest allowed is 3 per cent. per annum.

The amount of invested funds was $100,000.

VII.—JUDICIAL.

Informations were filed against 108 persons in the Supreme Court. Judgment was given for the Crown in 74 cases and for the prisoner in 14. A *nolle prosequi* was entered by the Attorney-General in twenty cases.

There was one conviction for manslaughter.

Convicted prisoners are employed out of doors on various public works. Within the prisons they are employed in tailoring, printing, book-binding, carpentry, tin-smithing, and the manufacture of brooms, fibre mats, mattresses, ships' fenders, etc. Discipline was good, and there were only 78 punishments. There were no cases of corporal punishment. The health of the prisoners was good. There was no execution.

VIII.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated mean population for the year was 43,586, consisting of 21,840 males and 21,746 females.

The birth-rate was 33·979 and the mortality 27·555 per thousand of the estimated mean population.

The excess of deaths over births was 446.

The number of illegitimate births was 628 out of a total of 1,481, or 42·40 per cent.

Four hundred and twenty-two marriages took place during the year, being at the rate of 9·68 per thousand of the mean population.

During 1919 the excess of male over female births was 31.

IX.—POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

Foreign telegrams may be sent viâ the Mexican lines or by wireless viâ Swan Island.

X.—RAINFALL.

Rain fell on 187 days in the year in Belize and amounted to 68·93 inches. The months of June, July, September and October were the rainiest in the year.

The maximum rainfall recorded was in 1911, when 130·93 inches fell, and the minimum in 1910, when 63·76 inches fell.

GENERAL.

The presentation of this report at a date twelve months after is was due is deeply regretted. The delay is due to many causes, principally to the many changes, during the year, of officers holding the acting office of Colonial Secretary, to the shortage of staff, and the difficulty experienced in the conduct of public business in temporary and inadequate office accommodation due to the loss of the Public Buildings in 1918, a loss which it is regretted has not yet been made good at the present date.

The year 1919 opened with bright prospects at the conclusion of the War, but unfortunately they were marred by the unfortunate riot which occurred in Belize in July. This occurrence had a temporary paralyzing effect on schemes proposed in the public interest and cost the Colony over $180,000, which amount was fortunately met from surplus funds without grave detriment.

Mr. Eyre Hutson, C.M.G., assumed office as Governor of the Colony on the 22nd March, 1919.

Mr. R. Walter, C.M.G., resumed duty on that date as Colonial Secretary, and proceeded on leave of absence on the 2nd May, 1919.

Mr. W. L. McKinstry, Treasurer, acted as Colonial Secretary during the year.

At the meeting of the Legislative Council convened in April to deal with the Estimates, a further increase to the salaries of Public Officers was approved to meet the increased cost of living.

EYRE HUTSON,
Governor.

10th February, 1921.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*		*Year.*
1039	St. Helena		1919
1040	Weihaiwei		,,
1041	Nyasaland		1918–1919
1042	Turks and Caicos Islands		1919
1043	Grenada		,,
1044	Bermuda		,,
1045	Basutoland		1919–1920
1046	Cyprus		,,
1047	Fiji		1919
1048	Straits Settlements		,,
1049	Ceylon		,,
1050	Gibraltar		1919–1920
1051	Somaliland		,,
1052	Zanzibar		1919
1053	Gambia		,,
1054	Uganda		1918–1919
1055	Malta		,,
1056	Swaziland		1919–1920
1057	Bechuanaland Protectorate		,,
1058	Ashanti		1919
1059	Bahamas		1919–1920
1060	British Solomon Islands		,,
1061	Seychelles		1919
1062	Mauritius		,,
1063	St. Vincent	April–December	,,
1064	Nigeria		,,
1065	Sierra Leone		,,
1066	Gold Coast		,,
1067	Jamaica		1919–1920
1068	British Guiana		1919
1069	Trinidad and Tobago		,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
82	Imperial Institute	Rubber and Gutta-percha.
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1110.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1920.

(For Report for 1919 see No. 1070.)

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No. 1110.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED, 31st DECEMBER, 1920.*

GEOGRAPHICAL.

British Honduras, one of the least known of the possessions of the Empire, is unique in that it is the only British Colony on the mainland of Central America. It lies between latitude 15° 53′ 55″ N. and 18° 29′ 5″ N. and longitude 88° 10′ W. and 89° 9′ 22″ W. It is bounded by Mexico on the north and west and by Guatemala on the west and south. Its greatest length is 174 miles, its greatest width 68 miles, and its estimated area 8,598 square miles. The Colony is divided into six districts, namely, Corozal, Orange Walk, Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo. The Colony in size is almost equal to the whole of the British West Indies Islands put together. Eastward of the coast there are numerous cayes (islands), most of which are uninhabitable owing to the swampy nature of their soil. Others are inhabited by fishermen and coconut planters, and are also used as summer resorts by the inhabitants of the Colony.

2. The principal physical features are a littoral plain extending the whole length of the Colony for a width of about ten miles from the coast (except in the north, where it increases to about 50 miles in width), and westward of this, hilly country rising to a maximum height of about 3,700 ft. The principal range of hills is the Cockscomb Range (so called from its appearance when viewed from the sea), which commences in the neighbourhood of Manatee River and extends southward to Monkey River. The country is well watered by its many rivers and creeks, which are used as the principal means of transport and communication. The greater part of its area is covered with forest bearing many valuable timber trees, only four of which are at present exploited. These are mahogany and cedar, for which the Colony is famous, sapodilla, from the bark of which is bled a gum which after manufacture becomes the chewing gum of commerce, and logwood, well-known as a valuable dye-wood. Other indigenous products which are gathered in small amounts are cacao, cohune nuts,

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* A sketch Map will be found in the Report for 1914, No. 868. [Cd. 7622-59].

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fustic, rosewood, rubber and sarsaparilla ; while the sea yields totoiseshell and sponges, in addition to the fish which forms a large part of the food of the inhabitants of the Colony, and provides sport for its visitors. There are large areas of pine forests ; open, park-like country with fair natural pasture and suitable for the raising of stock.

HISTORICAL.

3. The coast was discovered in 1502 by Columbus, and its early settlement is supposed to have been effected from Jamaica, about 1638, by adventurers, who were attracted by the fine timber (logwood and mahogany), which grew on the banks of the Hondo and other rivers. Their headquarters were at St. George's Caye. The name of the present chief town and of the Belize River is alleged to be a corruption of the name of the buccaneer, Wallis, who was driven from Hispaniola in that year, and who is said to have been the leader of the settlers.

4. An earlier settlement had been made by a chartered company, of which the Earl of Warwick was chairman and John Pym treasurer, on two small islands off the Mosquito Coast, in 1630. The Mosquito natives were very friendly to the English settlers, and their king, shortly after the conquest of Jamaica, placed himself under English protection, and the Governors of Jamaica exercised a sort of supervision over the affairs of the settlement. In 1793 the native king made a treaty resigning his country to Great Britain. Ruatan was abandoned in 1749, but at the same time an officer was formally appointed by the Government of Jamaica to superintend the settlements. By the Treaty of Paris in 1763, it was agreed by Great Britain to abandon the settlements, and the forts were dismantled and the garrisons withdrawn. The settlers remained, however, and from that date until 1798, when the last attempt to establish the sovereignty of Spain over the territory was defeated by the inhabitants in the "Battle of St. George's Caye," the Spaniards made frequent but ineffectual attempts to expel the wood-cutters by force of arms ; and treaty after treaty was concluded, which had little other effect than to stimulate the enterprise of the settlers by the recognition, thus step by step accorded, of the footing they had gained for themselves in Central America, without, in the first instance, any thought of territorial aggrandisement, but solely in pursuit of the industry in which their fortunes were embarked.

5. The Bay Islands were recognised as part of the Republic of Honduras in 1859.

6. The only subsequent events of external significance which need here be noticed, are the definition, as above, of the boundaries of the Colony (of which a survey has been partially executed) ; and the frequent border troubles, connected with the revolt in 1849 of the Indian population of Yucatan against the Spanish inhabitants, the result of which was that the Indians were in

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possession of the country to a considerable distance north of the Hondo until 1901, when the Mexicans subjugated them. Occasional incursions into the Colony were made from time to time by the Indians, the last being in 1872, by the Icaiche tribe on the north-west frontier .

CONSTITUTION.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. In 1756 these customs were formally recognised by the King's Government, after the visit of Admiral Sir William Burnaby to the settlement in that year. The customs of the settlers were codified and published, and became known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797, elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of 18 elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial, members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council contains five official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1899, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 9 of 1913, a revised edition of the Consolidated Laws has been published in two volumes. This edition came into force on 14th January, 1915, and supersedes the edition published in 1887 and all ordinances passed before June, 1914. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 16 of the Consolidated Laws.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and six members, three of whom are ex-officio, the other three appointed members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts :— Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name ; the Corozal district ; the Orange Walk district ; the Cayo district ; the Stann Creek district ; and the Toledo district, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, comprising the extreme south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual functions of that office.

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

13. Under Chapter 87 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition) there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 89 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition). The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Cay, Cay Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

15. The calendar year under review was probably the most prosperous one on record. Towards the end of the financial year ending 31st March, 1921, however, a period of depression set in.

16. January saw the installation of new fire-fighting engines and equipment, which arrived in December, 1919. The equipment is second to none in the West Indies. In January, Mr. W. R. Dunlop, of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, Barbados, arrived to investigate and report on the agricultural possibilities of British Honduras.

17. The report of the Commission of Enquiry into the riots in Belize was published in February. Prince William of Sweden paid the Colony a visit in February on an ethnological mission. Mr. P. Stanley Woods, Secretary of the British Honduras Chamber of Commerce, represented British Honduras at the Conference of Associated Chambers of Commerce of the West Indies, held at Barbados in February.

18. The Colony was visited in April by Mr. Algernon Aspinall, C.M.G., and his address to the British Honduras Chamber of Commerce was much appreciated.

19. Mr. H. E. Phillips, the Acting Colonial Secretary, represented the Colony at the Canada—West Indies Conference at Ottawa in June. The Royal Sussex Regiment left in June and were relieved by a detachment of the West India Regiment.

20. Lieut.-Colonel Maxwell H. Smith arrived in July and took up his duties as Colonial Secretary, and also the newly appointed Superintendent of Police, Captain H. J. L. Cavenaugh.*

21. Mr. Cornelius Hummel arrived in August to investigate and report on the forestry possibilities of the Colony.

22. In December, the Children's Ward of the Belize Hospital, erected in memory of Governor W. Hart-Bennett, who died from the effects of injuries received at the fire which destroyed the public buildings in 1918, was formally opened.

23. The Governor, Eyre Hutson, Esq., C.M.G., proceeded on leave to the United Kingdom on 21st August and returned on 2nd January, 1921. During his absence the Government was administered by Lieut.-Colonel Maxwell H. Smith.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

24. No records of emigration or immigration are kept. The probabilities are that during the last ten years greater numbers of people have left the Colony than have entered it. For the most part the emigrants have been young men who were attracted to the neighbouring Republics by higher wages than obtained locally.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

25. At the end of the year 1920 the sanitation of Belize was from the point of view of malarial and yellow fever prevention, by no means as satisfactory as it should have been. It is true that some attempt had been made by the Town Board to clean the yards and screen the water receptacles during the yellow fever epidemic in Guatemala. Belize is surrounded by swamps, while the town stands on land which has been only partially reclaimed from the swamp, and many lots all over the town are still in their original water-logged condition. The drainage is effected by open ditches and cement-lined canals throughout the town, which frequently get silted up, overgrown with rank vegetation, and form breeding-places for mosquitoes. The water supply is rain water stored in vats, barrels and tanks, many of which are imperfectly screened or not screened at all, and well water from wells, the majority of which are unscreened. With the present

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* The authorised strength of the Police Force was raised from 1st April by the addition of the following numbers :—Four sergeants, four corporals and 24 men. The force was reorganised from 1st October and re-armed with the Lee Enfield rifle in place of the obsolete weapon, the Snider carbine. In December, Sergeant-Major Blades arrived with 35 men from Barbados, whither he had been sent to recruit them.

resources at the disposal of the municipal authorities, it is practically impossible to convert Belize into a thoroughly sanitary town, as for this purpose it would be necessary :—

(1) To fill in all swampy lots in the town and all land within half a mile of the city limits.

(2) To pipe water in from the nearest supply of pure water.

(3) To provide an efficient drainage system throughout the town.

26. The towns of Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Cayo and Punta Gorda, are on the whole in a more satisfactory condition from a sanitary point of view than is Belize, chiefly owing to the fact that all of them are possessed of fairly good natural drainage, so that water soon runs off the streets and lots.

27. *Ankylostomiasis.*—The Anti-Hookworm Campaign, which was commenced in 1917, was concluded this year. Omitting the Belize district, where the percentage of infection is not sufficiently high to amount to a serious pathogenic factor, the following table gives the population of each district, excluding mahogany, chicle and other camps and cays, where the infection is for the most part so inconsiderable as not to require treatment, with the number examined, the number of positives, and the number treated :—

District.	Population.	No. Examined	No. of Positive.	Treated.
Corozal	5,098	4,921	1,872	1,777
Toledo	3,900	3,064	2,362	2,205
Stann Creek	5,000	4,372	2,127	2,034
Orange Walk	4,000	3,259	514	483
Cayo	3,800	2,373	1,201	1,161
TOTAL	21,798	17,989	8,076	7,660

VITAL STATISTICS.

28. Estimated population on 31st December, 1920	45,083
Births registered in 1920	1,983
Deaths	1,101

497 marriages were registered in 1920, the rate being 11·29 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 9·68 for 1919. Of the 1,983 births, 990 were males and 993 were females. The birth-rate works out 45·03 per 1,000 of the population, as against 41·25 per 1,000 during 1919.

29. Of the 1,101 deaths, 534 were males and 567 were females, the death-rate being 25·00 per 1,000 of the population, a little lower than the normal rate of the Colony. The rate in 1919 was 27·55 and in 1918 it was 49·36 per 1,000, but this high figure was due to the influenza epidemic of that year.

30. During 1920 there were 244 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a proportion per cent. of the total deaths registered of 22·2, and comparing with 18·3 per cent. for the year 1919. Between one year and five years of age, there were 173 deaths in 1920, comparing with 180 deaths of infants classified in the same age group in 1919. The proportion of deaths to each 100 births of infants between one and five years of age was in 1920, 21·0 per cent., and in 1919 it was 27·0 per cent.

31. The principal causes of death during 1920 in order of degree were from diseases of the digestive system followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the genito-urinary system. Deaths from malaria give a proportion of 11·3 per cent. of the total deaths, and tuberculosis accounted for 14·2 per cent. of all the deaths registered—a higher proportion than usual, but due to sequelae of the influenza epidemic.

SPORT.

32. In the department of sport there is good entertainment for the dauntless hunter whose love of the chase is greater than his susceptibility to the many small annoyances of a tropical forest. In the neighbourhood of towns, villages and mahogany camps there is very little game to be found, but good sport may be had in those parts which are away from the haunts of men. Of large animals the jaguar, puma, tiger cat and tapir are the most popular objects of chase in the thick forest, while of smaller and edible animals and birds, the antelope, armadillo, gibonet, the wild turkey, with his cousins the curassow and the quam, provide a sufficient variety of food. The wild turkey (*Meleagris ocellatus*) is also valued for his plumage. Deer are plentiful in the pine forests, and in the numerous rivers and lagoons the hunter may, with the aid of head light and harpoon, indulge in the exciting but not dangerous sport of spearing alligators from a canoe. In the sea and lower reaches of the rivers the fisherman finds an abundance of fish, including large tarpon. There is a polo club and a golf and lawn tennis club at Belize.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

33. The amount collected for import duties during the financial year 1920-1921 was $520,591·45, as against $530,877·13 in 1919-1920. The decrease of $10,000 does not give a fair indication of the trade of the Colony during the year. The import duties collected in 1919-1920 were the largest in the history of the Colony, and it is probable that trade in 1920-1921 showed a real increase above that figure, quite apart from the increased cost of goods—one of the principal factors in the swelling of the duties during the later years of the War—which was still in evidence. The import duties collected in the first half of 1920-1921 were $80,000 in excess of the duties collected in the same period of the preceding year. The introduction of the Preferential Tariff on

12th October, 1920, had an immediate effect in reducing the receipts from import duties and materially reduced the increased collections over the previous year during the first half-year of 1920-1921. This factor and the commencement, at the end of the financial year, of a period of trade depression, caused the receipts in the last half-year to fall $90,000 below the receipts in the same period of the preceding year.

34. Light and wharf dues amounted to $18,625·53 in 1920-1921, as against $14,642·75 in 1919-1920. Increased shipping and also an increase in the export trade were responsible for ships of greater tonnage trading with the port.

35. The value of the exports for the year 1920 was $5,045,671, as against $4,448,809 in 1919. The Colony is in a peculiar position, in that in addition to its own chicle and mahogany industries, operations in these products, although directed from the Colony, are carried on over the borders in the adjoining republics of Guatemala and Mexico ; the logs and gum, however, have to be transported through the Colony and shipped from the port of Belize ; this is due to the Colony's geographical position. The value of this trade (imports re-exported) was $2,180,133 and $2,700,405 in 1919 and 1920, respectively—in the case of 1919, just under 50 per cent., and in that of 1920 over 50 per cent. of the total exports of the Colony.

36. The value of the imports for the year 1920 was (exclusive of bullion and coin, of which $132,113 was imported), $5,744,598 an increase of $1,339,832 as compared with 1919.

II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

37. The figures of revenue and expenditure are in respect of the Government financial year, which ends on 31st March. The revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years is shown by the following statement :—

Revenue.

1916–17.	1917–18.	1918–19.	1919–20.	1920–21.
$640,462·21	$676,227·20	$721,233·10	$1,065,622·13	$1,129,932·32

Expenditure.

1916–17.	1917–18.	1918–19.	1919–20.	1920–21.
$613,788·19	$675,234·52	$670,736·81	$981,816·28	$928,816·55

38. The total Public Debt of the Colony outstanding at 31st March, 1921, was $926,450·00.

39. The assets and liabilities on the same date were $833,534·25 and $303,255·46, respectively. The amount of the balance of the account at the close of the year 1920-1921 was, therefore, $530,278·79, which includes a surplus balance of $329,163·02 brought forward from the previous year on 1st April, 1920.

TAXATION.

40. Ordinance No. 13 of 1920 increased the tax on land other than land in a town, from one cent to one and a half cents an acre. The additional tax levied on land served by a railway, i.e., land within two miles of a railway, was reduced to 8½ cents; the aggregate tax on such lands, therefore, remained unchanged at 10 cents an acre.

41. Customs duties, including export duties, continue to furnish the major portion of the Colony's revenue. During the year under review the revenue from that head yielded no less than seven-twelfths of the *total revenue*. This fact shows that importations were larger and the high values on which *ad valorem* duties were paid, were still maintained during the first half-year, viz:—From 1st April to 30th September, 1920. The Colony was a signatory of the Canada—West Indies Trade Agreement, and it was her privilege to be first in the field to pass into law a Preferential Tariff in accordance with the terms of that agreement.

42. Ordinance No. 33, of 1920, which was brought into force on 12th October, 1920, enacted changes of duty on certain articles and reduced the then existing general rate of 15 per cent. *ad valorem* duty to 15 per cent. under the "General Tariff," and 10 per cent. under the "Preferential Tariff." The rate of conversion of the pound sterling was reduced also from $4·86 to $4·00.

43. The fact that the Preferential Tariff applies also to imports from the United Kingdom, coupled with the reduction in the rate of conversion of the pound sterling, had its effect on the receipts from *ad valorem* duties, the total of which fell to $150,133·71 in the last half-year (the best for revenue purposes), as against $223,068·13 in the first half-year. It is necessary to note, however, that this falling-off in the receipts from *ad valorem* duties was also in part due to the beginning, toward the end of the financial year, of an era of trade depression.

INCOME TAX.

44. The year under review saw the enactment of an Income Tax Law in the Colony. It was brought into force by proclamation late in the year. The first assessment is to be made in the year 1921, in respect of incomes in the year 1920, or, if proper

accounts are available, in respect of an average of incomes over three years ending at any time in 1920. The rates imposed by the law are as follows :—

		$	
(*a*)	On the first $1,000 of the income	Nil.	
(*b*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $1,000 and up to $2,000	·05	(½ per cent.)
(*c*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $2,000 and up to $3,000	·10	(1 ,,)
(*d*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $3,000 and up to $5,000	·15	(1½ ,,)
(*e*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $5,000 and up to $7,500	·20	(2 ,,)
(*f*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $7,500 and up to $10,000	·25	(2½ ,,)
(*g*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $10,000 and up to $15,000	·30	(3 ,,)
(*h*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $15,000 and up to $20,000	·50	(5 ,,)
(*i*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $20,000 and up to $25,000	·75	(7½ ,,)
(*j*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $25,000 and up to $30,000	1·00	(10 ,,)
(*k*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $30,000 and up to $40,000	1·25	(12½ ,,)
(*l*)	On every ten dollars of the income beyond $40,000	1·50	(15 ,,)

CURRENCY.

45. The currency of the Colony is on a gold basis, the standard coin being the dollar of the United States of America with the sovereign and half sovereign rated at 4·867 and 2·433, respectively. There are local subsidiary coins, which are minted specially for the Colony, consisting of 50 cent., 25 cent., 10 cent., 5 cent., and 1 cent. pieces. There is also a Government note issue consisting of notes of the following denominations, viz. :— $1, $2, $5 and $10. The face value of the notes authorised and issued at 31st March, 1921, was $450,292.

III. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

46. It is probably safe to say that the high-water mark of the trade of the Colony reached in the previous year was passed in the year under review. A comparison of the values of the imports for the last six years is interesting in showing the progress made. The figures must of course be reduced by a considerable percentage to allow for the higher cost of manufactured articles and materials abroad in the latter years.

1915.—$2,148,956.
1916.—Figures not available.
1917.—$2,793,773.
1918.—$3,565,416.
1919.—$4,695,216.
1920.—$5,876,711.

47. The United States of America and the United Kingdom continue to be the chief sources of supply. Imports from the latter, which fell about 50 per cent. during the war, due principally to shipping restrictions, showed a strong recovery in 1920 to almost pre-war level. The total value of the imports from the United Kingdom in that year were actually 22½ per cent. more than in 1913, but the higher cost of goods in 1920 must be taken into consideration as offsetting this apparent increase in the total trade. On account of the Colony's geographical position and limited communication, the United States of America remains the main source of the Colony's supply. We were dependent upon her entirely for our foodstuffs during the war, and that situation, to a large extent, still obtains. The Colony depends on outside sources almost entirely for her food supply, very little being produced locally.

48. The value of the imports from the United States has increased steadily and in 1920, was more than two and a half times the value of the imports in 1913. The proportion as between the values of the imports from the United States and the United Kingdom, which in 1913 was 2 to 1, had increased in 1920 to considerably more than 4 to 1.

49. The United States and the United Kingdom are also the principal countries to which our products are exported. The proportion in the values of the exports to each country was in 1913, 6 to 1, and in 1920, 5¼ to 1, in favour of the United States of America.

AGRICULTURE.

50. Agriculturally the Colony is in a somewhat backward condition, due to the number of its population in relation to its area, and to the fact that there is no institution where the youth of the place can be trained in agriculture. The principal agricultural products are coconuts, bananas, sugar, plantains, rice, maize, yams, taniers, sweet potatoes, cassava, beans, pumpkins, oranges, grapefruit, limes, mangoes and avocado pears. Of these, coconuts, bananas, sugar, plantains and grapefruit are exported.

51. The parts of the Colony most suitable for coconut growing are the sea coast and those cayes which are sufficiently high above sea level. There the coconut thrives well with comparative freedom from disease and commences to bear in the fifth year after planting; while inland the trees arrive at corresponding maturity only after about eight years.

52. The banana industry has suffered in recent years from the prevalence of the Panama disease, which has attacked the plantations in the principal banana-growing area, the Stann Creek Valley. It is hoped that the efforts of agricultural experts to find a remedy for the disease or to propagate in large quantities a disease-resisting variety of banana will be successful, and that the Colony's former prosperous trade in this fruit will revive.

53. There are 25 sugar estates in active operation and also a large number of small hand mills worked in connection with small plantations. Nine of the estates distil their molasses for rum for local consumption and for export. The soil of the southern part of the Colony is admirably adapted to the growing of sugar. The canes once planted ratoon for many years (in some cases as long as 30 years) without apparent diminution of sugar content. It is obvious that under such conditions sugar can be grown much more cheaply than in countries where the fields have to be ploughed and planted yearly or bi-yearly.

54. Of the 5,502,720 acres comprising the Colony an estimated area of 2,828,554 acres has been alienated, leaving 2,674,166 acres belonging to the Crown. Of this, about 32,000 acres are held on lease by small planters. Crown lands are sold at a minimum price of $3·50 per acre, including cost of survey, except in cases where the purchasers undertake to put into effect pre-arranged schemes of development, when the price may be reduced. Crown lands are leased at a minimum rent of 25 cents per acre. A tax of one cent and a half an acre is imposed on all land, while on land served by a railway an additional tax of 8½ cents is charged. The Colony generally has a rich soil suitable for the cultivation of all tropical agricultural products, and large tracts of Crown land are available for improvement, but in the present state of the Colony's development and in the absence of anything of the nature of an agricultural bank it is not advisable for persons without means to take up the land.

CHICLE INDUSTRY.

55. Prior to the chicle season, 1920-1921 (the season being reckoned over the period from 1st July to 30th June of following year), there was practically an unlimited demand for chicle procurable in and around this Colony, and competition was so keen that prices rose as high as from 65 cents to 73 cents per pound during the season 1919-1920, with the result that all who could rushed into the business, placing chicle on the market of a quality far below the usual standard ; but, due to the demand for the article, very little attention was given to the all-important matter of quality, more especially by the small buyers, who looked for their supply out of what was left by the larger purchasers, whose chicle was secured mainly by contract.

56. This mad rush to place chicle on the market by producers regardless of quality was the cause of a considerable falling-off in the demand during the following (1920-1921) season, for not only had the gum manufacturers become chary about buying chicle in this market, due to the poor quality which had been supplied to them at the advanced prices, but they were by this time in a position to procure a natural gum from the Far East which had been gradually coming to the fore as a substitute for chicle, when prepared with other ingredients, in the manufacture

of chewing gum ; the supply of this substitute, during the War, had been reduced to a minimum owing to the difficulties of transportation.

57. Therefore, seeing the unwarranted figures to which chicle was climbing, manufacturers of gum devoted their energies towards perfecting this so-called " substitute " by experiment with such quantities of the substitute gum they were able to obtain, with the result that it has now been brought to such a state of perfection that it is not so easy a matter for a chicle expert to determine with certainty which of two samples put before him is that of desiccated chicle or the " substitute " for that article.

58. However, the manufacturers of chewing gum who have made a name for their brands declare without hesitation that chicle is a most desirable element in the manufacture of their products, which is proved by the fact that several of the smaller concerns who discarded chicle in the manufacture of their gum have gone out of business. The percentage of the Eastern gum used with chicle is not made public by the manufacturers, but the fact remains that they are using just as much as they possibly can without in any way damaging the quality of the finished article, as the cost of eastern gum is less than one-third that of chicle. This has naturally resulted in a decrease in demand for chicle, for not only are the producers called upon to face competition with the Eastern gum, but they have also to recover the ground lost by their inferior work during the period of high prices, which has naturally given the chicle exported from this Colony a bad name in the United States, driving buyers to look to Mexico and elsewhere.

59. The outlook for the season 1921-1922 is not a very promising one as compared with the past, for manufacturers have fairly large stocks of chicle on hand, and as prices are now beginning to find their proper level, they are inclined only to contract for such quantities as will keep the industry going. There appears to be little doubt, however, that the chicle business will revive as time goes on and prices come down (which they are doing gradually), and producers are convinced of the importance of placing a superior article in the market and thus retrieving their lost reputation and stimulating a greater demand for their product, which it is feared under the most favourable conditions is never likely to be what it has been in years past, before the Eastern gum was discovered.

BANANA INDUSTRY.

60. Banana production during the period under review has been disappointing, and the gradual falling-off in shipments from the Colony shows that the outlook for the future is by no means bright. This unfortunate condition has been brought about largely through ravages made in the Stann Creek Valley by Panama disease, which has now reached an epidemic stage there, threatening in the near future total destruction of the fields.

Little or no new cultivation of lands has taken place in the Colony, due probably not to the lack of enterprise on the part of the planters, but to the fact that the great risk of disease coming into new fields is not offset by an attractive price for fruit. In one or two districts, notably Southern Stann Creek and Monkey River, plantations are comparatively free from disease, and from there shipments of fruit have been fairly satisfactory. It is hoped that in course of time with improved transport facilities and a better understanding between the fruit-purchasing companies and the planters, large areas of rich agricultural lands will be brought into cultivation.

COCONUT INDUSTRY.

61. The total exports for 1919 were 6,603,000 nuts, while those of 1920 were 6,263,000, showing in comparison a decrease in production of 340,000 in 1920.

62. This decrease, which would have been far greater but for a number of new plantations coming into bearing in 1920, was probably due to the exceptionally dry weather experienced in 1919-1920. Owing to lack of steamship competition and consequently high freight rates, planters, instead of shipping their own produce, are forced to sell to local buyers, chiefly the United Fruit Company and the Franklin Baker Company, who bear the cost of packing, when necessary, and of all export duties.

63. There are numerous plantations in the Colony, both on the mainland and on the many cayes which lie along the coast; in fact nearly all the available land on the cayes has been already planted out, the nuts grown on the cayes being of a much better quality than those grown on the mainland.

64. The Belize Estate and Produce Company, Ltd., own the largest single holding on Turneffe, the biggest of these cayes.

65. Coconuts bear all the year round, but production in some months is greater than in others—September and October being the months of highest production, while in March and April production is at its lowest. The average annual yield is 35 to 45 nuts per tree, but numbers of trees have been known to yield 150 to 200 nuts, and there is one known case of a tree which gave 500 nuts in one year. This is, however, very exceptional.

66. In 1920 the highest price obtained was \$36·00, while the lowest was \$25·00 per 1,000. The average price for the year was \$28·00. There is no grading of nuts in the Colony.

67. There is practically no copra made at present in the Colony, and no use whatever is made of the husks, which are not exported and are allowed to go to waste. An effort was made during the year 1920 to start a Coconut Planters' Association, which, however, resulted in failure.

FUSTIC INDUSTRY.

68. No fustic was shipped in 1920 and there are, at present, no accessible supplies in the Colony, but with the introduction of roads and other means of transport the vast supply of this product, which is of excellent quality and which is, at present, inaccessible, can be obtained from the interior.

LOGWOOD INDUSTRY.

69. The total amount of logwood exported during the year 1920 was 1,570 tons, all of which was shipped by The Belize Estate and Produce Company, Ltd., to the United Kingdom.

70. This represents the bulk of the Colony's accessible supply, and it is incredible that no cultivation is in progress in view of the fact that there are thousands of suitable areas lying idle, that this tree can be easily cultivated, and that the tree is sufficiently matured for cutting in ten years.

71. The British Honduras logwood is claimed to be of the finest quality and superior to Jamaica logwood, and though the development of the aniline dye industry in Germany caused a large reduction in demand for the haematoxylon dye, during the War there was a revival of the logwood business and there will probably always be a fair demand for logwood, provided the cost of supply is not excessive.

72. There still remains a very large supply in the Colony, but it is inaccessible owing to the lack of roads and other means of transport.

73. Logwood is shipped in pieces averaging 3 ft. to 4 ft. in length—only small trial shipments having been made of logwood chips.

MAHOGANY AND CEDAR INDUSTRY.

74. The total exported during the year amounted to :—

	Sup. ft.
Mahogany	9,773,150
Cedar	674,485
	10,447,635

Of this :—

3,823,217	sup. ft. mahogany and	337,238	sup. ft. cedar was shipped to the United Kingdom.
5,888,034	,, ,, ,,	337,247	sup. ft. cedar was shipped to the United States of America.
61,899	,, ,,		was shipped to Spain.
9,773,150		674,485	

75. The year's export approximately equalled the average annual export for the period 1914-19, but amounted to only two-thirds of the average annual export for the pre-war period 1911-13.

76. The mahogany season commences in January, during which month the labourers are sent to their respective camps. During the dry season trees are felled and logs trucked to the nearest creeks, where they await the first flood (about June), when they can be floated down to deep water, ready for rafting and towing to Belize for shipment. The trucking is almost entirely effected by oxen. From June onwards a large proportion of the logs are conveyed to the water-side on slides, also drawn by oxen. The second period of high-water normally occurs in September.

77. The methods of extracting the logs from the forests are primitive, and the same applies to all methods of transport. Such mechanical devices as are used have resulted from necessity rather than from economic progress. Owing to lack of any forestry development work the haul from tree stump to water increases annually, and for this reason mechanical transport is gradually making its appearance.

78. Mahogany labourers are signed on for a period of about eleven months and their labour is effected on a task system which has evolved by custom and experience. The average wage during 1920 was $16 to $17 per mensem, plus a weekly ration of 4 lb. pork and 7 qts. flour. Owing to the inclusion of rations as part of a labourer's wage, the cost of living has not materially affected the cash wage.

79. Practically the whole of the Colony's timber is towed to Belize for shipment.

80. The largest private owners of mahogany forests are The Belize Estate and Produce Company, Ltd., who export about 3-4,000,000 sup. ft. annually. The bulk of the timber imported into the United States of America is purchased in Belize by American purchasing agents from local contractors.

81. During the commencement of the year European and United States of America prices offered a fair margin of profit, but during the latter part there was a big falling-off resulting in large stocks remaining unsold.

82. It is a remarkable fact that as yet no mahogany lumber is produced in Belize by any big or modern mill. Belize should be the centre of the Central American mahogany lumber trade with a large modern sawmill. The saving in ocean freight would be considerable.

83. Many new useful properties of mahogany lumber have been proved from the usages it was put to during the War, principally in the construction of aircraft, and it is probable that the demand for mahogany will increase in the near future, especially if more modern methods of extracting the logs and improved transport enable mahogany to compete with other woods inferior but at present more cheaply produced on the market.

SPONGE INDUSTRY.

84. Very little, if anything, has been done towards the development of the sponge industry in British Honduras. In a report received in 1921 from Mr. L. R. Crawshay, the Research Officer appointed in connection with the Sponge Fishery Investigations in the West Indies, he says, *inter alia* :—" The superior quality of certain of the sponges which I received from you in April last points to the existence of a valuable fishery in British Honduras waters, which, having received little attention hitherto, calls for careful consideration on the part of the Government of the Colony as to the best steps to be taken for its development." Again, he says later on in the report :—" The wool and the velvet sponges especially which were sent to me, are undoubtedly of a superior quality, and if it be considered that the tendency of artificial cultivation of sponge is to the general improvement of stock, it may be regarded as very probable that much improvement of these qualities would be attained by it apart from consideration of increase."

85. Nothing has been done by the Government since the receipt of the above report, owing to the severe financial depression which started in towards the end of the financial year in March, 1921.

IV. BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

86. The Royal Bank of Canada (incorporated in 1869) is the only banking institution doing business in the Colony. They commenced business in December, 1912, when they took over the interests of the Bank of British Honduras. The only office is established in Belize. The bank has branches throughout the West Indies and is also represented in the important centres in South America and Europe. A savings account is conducted at the Belize branch. The bank does not issue currency notes in the Colony, the only notes in circulation being those of the British Honduras Government.

87. The Government Savings Bank is an old institution, and although not made use of to the extent that it might be, progresses slowly and has never gone backward. The amount due to depositors on 31st March, 1921, was $163,158·40, as against $158,340·85 at the end of the previous year of account.

88. There are five branches outside Belize—at the Sub-Treasury in each of the principal districts of the Colony.

89. The interest allowed is 3 per cent. Interest allowed to depositors in the Savings Branch of the Royal Bank of Canada is at the same rate.

V. EDUCATION.

90. There is no marked progress to report.

ELEMENTARY.

91. The schools of the Colony are denominational in character and are associated with the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Wesleyan and Baptist bodies. The Salvation Army has also recently come in. There are no Government schools. The present system of elementary education was inaugurated in the year 1894, when a new Code of Rules was brought into force. These have been amended from time to time, but the principle remains the same. They were framed under an Ordinance, No. 25 of 1892. Under these rules the school age commences at five years and ceases at 16 for the purpose of grants. The elementary aided schools are given substantial assistance by the Government in the form chiefly of a capitation grant on the monthly average attendance ; grants are also made for efficiency, for pupil teachers, needlework and agriculture, building and furniture. Because of the high cost of living which was universally felt, the Government made during the year 1920 special grants to the teachers, termed salary bonuses, in addition to the ordinary salaries for which the school managers are responsible. Married teachers with families have also been given family allowances at the same rate as that paid to Government officers. The total grants for the year 1920 amounted to $40,339 (this includes salary bonuses for nine months, April to December, amounting to $4,875, paid in June of 1920 ; the bonus for 1920, amounting to $6,350 ; and the family allowances for 1920, amounting to $1,783).

92. A small school fee is charged, but payment is not compulsory, and the total receipts are small—$2,742 in 1920.

93. A compulsory attendance law was passed in the year 1915, and though at first limited in its scope, affecting Indian schools only, it has been gradually extended, until it now affects almost the whole Colony. The age for compulsory attendance is from six years to 12 years, except in Belize—the capital of the Colony—where it commences at six years and ends at 14 years. There are a few private elementary schools that receive no aid ; the proprietors do not choose to be under the Education Law and Rules. In these schools fees are exacted and range from 25 cents to $1 per month.

94. The number of aided schools in the year under review was 58, with a total roll of 6,187 pupils—3,222 boys and 2,965 girls.

95. The average attendance was 4,558—2,404 boys and 2,154 girls. In the year 1894 the number of schools was 44, with a

total school roll of 3,228 and an average attendance of 2,251, and in 1915 there were 59 schools with a roll of 5,528 and an average attendance of 3,912.

96. Though the school roll and average attendance for the year 1920 are the highest on record, owing to the working of the Compulsory Attendance Law, the number of schools is less than in 1918, when there were 62. This is because of the difficulty of obtaining suitable teachers for the schools in Indian villages and small country places—for which reason some are frequently closed for long periods—and because there is as yet no training institution for teachers. Teachers are obtained by means of the pupil teacher system (which is not quite satisfactory for that purpose), and, occasionally, from the West Indies, chiefly Jamaica. The information concerning private unaided elementary schools is not complete. They show a school roll of about 288 and an average attendance of about 222.

SECONDARY.

97. Secondary schools, or schools within secondary departments, are denominational and unaided by the Government, except in the matter of a bonus paid for successful candidates at the Cambridge Local Examinations, for which Belize is a centre. The amount paid in 1920 was $800. There were three schools in Belize in the year under review, with a roll of 476, 279 boys and 197 girls, and an average attendance of 411—235 boys and 176 girls. The ordinary rate of fees is $3 per month. There were 34 candidates entered for the Cambridge Local Examinations of December, 1920 ; 13 for preliminary, 20 for the junior, and one for the senior. Seventeen passed—nine in the preliminary and eight in the junior. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 6,951 (3,627 boys and 3,324 girls), and the average attendance 5,191—2,736 boys and 2,455 girls. This would show that about 50 per cent. of the children of school age in the Colony are under instruction.

98. The expenditure for the year was $54,095 (inclusive of the amount of $4,875 for salary bonuses for nine months of the year 1919) in the aided schools and about $15,000 in the others.

TECHNICAL.

99. Technical education is limited to the teaching of needlework in girls' and mixed schools. There were two schools where school gardens were attempted.

100. For the purpose of furthering the agricultural development of the Colony, four lads who had passed through the elementary schools were selected and sent to the Farm School at Hope, in Jamaica, for a three years' course in agricultural training, at the expense of this Government.

101. There are no industrial schools.

VI. METEOROLOGICAL.

102. Summary of rainfall for Belize, British Honduras, during the year 1920 :—

Month.	Inches.	Days.	
January	3·78	19	
February	1·80	4	
March	2·90	11	Maximum temperature during year, 94 deg., April 14th.
April	·28	2	
May	·41	8	
June	10·37	20	
July	8·05	19	
August	4·98	14	Minimum temperature during year, 54·5 deg., February 7th.
September	7·25	20	
October	7·41	16	
November	19·45	17	
December	7·38	16	
	74·06	166	

Above readings taken at Belize at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., 90th meridian.

Average rainfall per annum, 69 inches.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS.

RAILWAY.

103. There is a railway 25 miles in length located in the Stann Creek Valley. At the Stann Creek terminus there is a deep-water pier alongside of which cargo steamers can lie.

104. The revenue for the year ending 31st December was $20,574, and the expenditure $41,708·21. No provision is made for depreciation. The total goods carried during the year were 522 tons of general freight, 363,008 bunches of bananas, 46,675 plantains, 94,028 feet of lumber. The number of passengers carried was 6,056.

105. The carrying capacity of the permanent way and rolling stock is largely in excess of the above, but owing to the appearance of Panama disease in the banana farms, areas of cultivation have been abandoned and transport over the railway has consequently fallen to a very large extent.

ROADS.

106. The total length of roads in the Colony is estimated to be 700 miles ; of this length only about 30 miles have been metalled. The roads are merely developments of the forest

trails; they are unsuitable for wheel traffic, and during the wet season are frequently almost impassable. During 1920-1921 a beginning was made to metal some of the roads in the northern and southern districts, where there are some sugar estates. It is extremely difficult in many districts of the Colony to obtain suitable material for road-making, and the cost of construction is consequently very high.

RIVERS.

107. Many of the rivers, especially in the southern half of the Colony, are navigable for small craft, and the bulk of the produce brought to the coast towns and of the timber exported from the Colony is river-borne. The rivers most used are kept fairly clear of obstacles to navigation.

PUBLIC WORKS.

108. No public works of any magnitude were executed during the year. Schemes, accompanied by the necessary drawings and estimates, for the improvement of the inner harbour and the rebuilding of the Government offices were submitted to the Legislative Council.

SHIPPING.

109. The number and tonnage of vessels, steam and sail, which entered at ports in the Colony during 1920 was 571 and 267,064 tons, and cleared 579 and 266,138 respectively. In 1919 the figures were:—Entered, 597 vessels of 153,699 tons; and cleared, 609 vessels of 150,842 tons.

POSTAL, RADIO-TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICE.

110. Mails are conveyed by the steamers of the United Fruit Company between New Orleans and Belize, and Mobile and Belize alternately, about once a week. Letters and prints for the United Kingdom and other places are forwarded by this means. An exchange of parcels is maintained between the United Kingdom and the Colony by a monthly service performed by the Harrison Line Steamers, which sail from Liverpool. Parcels for the republics of Guatemala and Honduras are sent in transit through Belize by this line. Communication with these southern republics is maintained by steamers of the United Fruit Company and sailing boats. The Colony is in weekly communication with Payo Obispo, Mexico, *via* Corozal. A radio-telegraph station in touch with Swan Island receives and transmits Government and commercial messages. Improvements to enable direct communication with Jamaica have been approved but not yet carried out.

TELEPHONE.

111. There are 500 miles of trunk lines with 30 offices. The charge for telegrams is 25 cents for the first 15 words, and one cent for every additional word. Telephone calls are charged for at

the rate of 30 cents for every five minutes. During the War no increase was made. In Belize there is one exchange with 250 subscribers. Outside communication *via* Payo Obispo is made overland through Mexico.

VIII. CLIMATE.

112. The climate of British Honduras has the reputation of being a very unhealthy one, but facts show that far from being very unhealthy the climate compares not very unfavourably with that of other tropical colonies with small European populations.

113. Leaving out 1918, in which year there was an epidemic of influenza, the death-rate taken over a number of years approximates to 26 per 1,000, and over one-fifth of this number of deaths occurs in children under one year of age, who more often than not die through the neglect of their parents and not on account of the unhealthiness of the climate. It may be of interest to compare the main vital statistics of the Colony during 1920 with those recorded 30 years ago, when the estimated population was 30,000 people. The comparison appears from the following table :—

District.	Births.		Marriages.		Deaths.	
	1890.	1920.	1890.	1920.	1890.	1920.
Belize	435	701	137	172	356	362
Northern	404	510	138	138	536	317
Cayo	97	258	11	47	138	127
Stann Creek	89	232	39	38	79	122
Toledo	106	282	30	102	73	173
The Colony ..	1,131	1,983	355	497	1,182	1,101

114. In this table may be sought and perhaps found a reason for the prevalent idea outside of this Colony that British Honduras is very unhealthy. Thirty years ago the population was 30,000, and the death rate nearly 40 per 1,000; to-day the population is 45,000 and the death-rate is about 25 per 1,000. It is feared that the old saying, " Give a dog a bad name and hang him," applies to British Honduras, and those who live in British Honduras wonder how many more years will elapse before the generality of people outside of the Colony will realise that for Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions the climate of British Honduras will be found salubrious, pleasant and healthy.

115. The mean maximum shade temperature is 90 deg., the mean minimum 62 deg. Breezes from the sea prevail for the greater part of the year. The average rainfall is about 81 in. per annum. From the middle of February to the middle of May is the dry season. For the rest of the year rain falls every month, the heaviest rainfall being in the months of September, October and November, during which months about one-third of the total rain occurs.

IX. FORESTS.

116. *General.*—The forest industry is the main industry of the country. The forests of British Honduras are being investigated by a qualified Forestry Officer, whose report will be published in due course.

117. *Mahogany.*—A large portion of the mahogany forests is on private lands. Mahogany has been worked heavily during the last few years on account of high prices, and several remote forests which were considered to be unworkable before, on account of long distances and great cost of transport, could be and were exploited during the time when the price of mahogany was high. A considerably smaller output must be anticipated with falling prices. The natural stock of mahogany is gradually but slowly decreasing. There is no Forest Department. Investigations show that with proper forest conservancy the stock could be increased considerably and that there would be good prospects in the not distant future for firms with a large capital who wish to get concessions for long periods for exploiting timber on a big scale. The forestry industry is less suited for people of small capital and for working a short time only.

118. *Pines.*—One-third of the area of the Colony is covered by pine forests. A large proportion of them is on private lands. The exploitation of the pine forests on Crown land, with a few exceptions, was granted to a company 16 years ago; this concession expires in nine years hence.

119. The pine forest of the Riversdale Estate, which is offered by the Government for sale, is estimated to contain about 200,000 pine trees of marketable size; it is one of the best pine forests of the Colony. The pine in question is *Pinus Cubensis.* The wood is of a good lasting quality and contains plenty of resin. The total height of large trees is about 100 ft.

120. *Sapodilla.*—There are large areas containing many thousand sapodilla trees from the gum of which, called chicle, the famous chewing gum so extensively used in the United States, is manufactured.

121. *Other Woods.*—There are numerous other woods of good quality, which have remained neglected hitherto and might be exploited. The more important ones are :—

Rosewood (*Dalbergia Sp.*).
Santa Maria (*Calophyllum Calaba*).
Billy Webb.
Cabbage Bark (*Andira Sp.*).
Bullet Tree (or " Black " Bullet Tree).
Nargusta (or " Red " Bullet Tree).
Yemeri.
Black Poisonwood (wood *not* poisonous).
Banak.
Balsa Woods.

X. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

122. There is no official handbook of British Honduras. Mr. W. R. Dunlop's Agricultural Report can be obtained from the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4, Millbank, Westminster, London, S.W.1, England.

MAX. SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

12th December, 1921

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page :—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1069	Trinidad and Tobago	1919
1070	British Honduras	,,
1071	Hong Kong	,,
1072	Barbados	1919–1920
1073	East Africa Protectorate	1918–1919
1074	Leeward Islands	1919–1920
1075	Nyasaland	,,
1076	Falkland Islands	1919
1077	Bermuda	1920
1078	Grenada	,,
1079	Uganda	1919–1920
1080	Fiji	1920
1081	Gibraltar	,,
1082	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1919
1083	Bechuanaland	1920–1921
1084	St. Helena	1920
1085	Basutoland	1920–1921
1086	Ceylon	1920
1087	Barbados	1920–1921
1088	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1919–1920
1089	East Africa Protectorate	,,
1090	Sierra Leone	1920
1091	Zanzibar	,,
1092	Cayman Islands	1918–1919
1093	Cyprus	1920
1094	St. Vincent	,,
1095	Bahamas	1920–1921
1096	Nyasaland	1920
1097	Weihaiwei	,,
1098	Nigeria	,,
1099	New Hebrides	,,
1100	Somaliland	,,
1101	Straits Settlements	,,
1102	Swaziland	1920–1921
1103	Trinidad and Tobago	1920
1104	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1105	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	,,
1106	Seychelles	,,
1107	Ashanti	,,
1108	Hong Kong	,,
1109	British Guiana	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1136.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1921.

(For Report for 1920 see No. 1110.)

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No. 1136.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1921,

WITH FINANCIAL INFORMATION UP TO 31st MARCH, 1922.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude. It is bounded by Yucatan on the north and west and by Guatemala on the west and south. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore larger than Wales and slightly smaller than Palestine. It is divided into six Districts, namely, Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Cayo and Toledo. There are numerous islands called cayes off the mainland whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The town of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between 1 and 4 miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 ft. of water can approach the port. At the town of Stann Creek there is a railway pier alongside of which vessels drawing up to 14 ft. can lie. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 ft. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and

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well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate is, on the whole, healthy and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, quite pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, the H.M.S. " King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated " principally by slaves " at a place called Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to

return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. In 1756 these customs were formally recognized by the King's Government, after the visit of Admiral Sir William Burnaby to the settlement in that year. The customs of the settlers were codified and published, and became known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1876 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council contains five official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1899, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 9 of 1913, a revised edition of the Consolidated

Laws has been published in two volumes. This edition came into force on 14th January, 1915, and supersedes the edition published in 1887 and all ordinances passed before June 1914. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 16 of the Consolidated Laws.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and six members, three of whom are *ex officio*, the other three appointed members.

11. For Administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, comprising the extreme south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual functions of that office.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 87 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition) there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 89 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition). The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

15. While 1921 cannot be described as a prosperous year, the Colony and its inhabitants have not had much to complain of and indeed have had much to be thankful for. There was not a great deal of money in circulation and what there was had to be judiciously expended. Prices of imported foodstuffs, as well as those of local commodities, continued high. Coming immediately after years of plenty the scarcity of money had a depressing effect. The low prices paid for chicle and the reduction in the export of over one million pounds as compared with the figures of the preceding year lessened considerably the amount of money in circulation. In the Cayo District only two hundred labourers were signed on for chicle bleeding instead of about seven hundred—the usual number. Many of those who were unemployed grew corn, which in consequence was plentiful and comparatively cheap.

The distribution of labour employment other than for chicle bleeding in the year was as follows:—

District.	Mahogany.	Agriculture	Other.	Total.
Toledo	37	55	*Nil.*	92
Cayo	—	1	1	2
Belize	864	10	153	1,027
Corozal	—	152	—	152
Stann Creek	27	1	—	28
Orange Walk	29	29	6	64

16. Owing to the reduced cultivation on many of the banana farms through the presence of Panama disease in the Stann Creek District many of the labourers emigrated to Honduras, attracted there by high wages. These men will probably return to the Colony in course of time and, for the present, they in most cases remit money for the support of their families.

Poverty as known in some other countries fortunately does not exist in this Colony. Work is always near at hand for those who want it and will accept a reasonable wage. The average wages were, for mahogany cutting $14.00 a month plus rations, for agriculture $10.00 a month, for other work $11.50 a month.

17. The year 1921 brought little joy to the merchant and man of business. Stocks bought in a high market had to be cleared in a falling one.

18. His Excellency the Governor resumed the administration of the Government on his return from leave on the 2nd January.

19. On the 14th February, a telegram was received from the Right Honourable Winston Churchill, M.P., saying that His Majesty had appointed him to be Secretary of State for the Colonies.

20. A Harbour Board was constituted under Proclamation No. 3 on the 23rd March, with the Governor as Chairman, to control the improvement, lighting and regulating of the Harbours of the Colony.

21. The Canada-West Indies Agreement granting preference to Colony products in Canada and Canadian goods in this Colony was proclaimed to take effect from 1st September. The amount of preference to Canadian goods was not to exceed $66\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. The Canadian Government further undertook to provide a freight mail and passenger steamship service to the Colony fortnightly, and the Colony undertook to contribute a sum not exceeding £5,000 in the event of the service becoming a pecuniary loss. The Agreement is in force for ten years unless terminated by twelve months' written notice on either side.

22. The official termination of the War was fixed for 1st September, 1921, except with the Ottoman Empire.

23. In the month of August there was a slight outbreak of yellow fever in the town of Belize and there was one case in the town of Stann Creek. Both places were declared to be infected in November. An Executive Commission was appointed to deal with the disease on the 11th October. On this Commission sat representatives of the Rockefeller Foundation. The Colony is under great obligations to that Foundation for its assistance in stamping out the disease. In the month of October the Governor appointed a Commission consisting of the Acting Chief Justice as Chairman, the Hon. J. Cran, M.D., O.B.E., V.D., the Hon. Sydney Cuthbert and F. R. Dragten, Esq., to enquire into *(a)* the origin of the outbreak, *(b)* the circumstances attending it, and *(c)* the sanitary condition of the town of Belize. The Commission had not reported the result of its enquiries when the year closed.

24. In August news was received that the Hon. E. F. L. Wood, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, would visit this Colony and the West Indies. Great expectations were looked for as a result of his visit. Most unfortunately, the outbreak of yellow fever caused him to cancel his visit. Much disappointment was felt at the decision. One of the questions it was intended to submit to him was that of a change in the political constitution of the Colony. A Resolution was moved in Legislative Council by the Senior Unofficial Member on the 8th November to the effect that the time had come to provide either for a partly or entirely elective principle of representation, and that a Commission be appointed to advise the Governor with a view to approaching His Majesty the King on the subject. The Resolution was accepted by the Governor as being the unanimous opinion of the Unofficial Members of Council.

25. State Portraits of Their Majesties were presented to the Colony and were hung at Government House pending the erection of a new Council Chamber.

26. The Standard Time adopted is six hours slow on Greenwich Mean Time. From the 1st November to the 15th March the clock was advanced forty-five minutes in order to afford longer opportunities for recreation in the afternoons.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

27. No records are kept. Emigration to the neighbouring Republics of men in search of work is believed to be only temporary. There has been no perceptible immigration into the Colony either from West Indian Colonies or from neighbouring Republics.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION.

28. The only outstanding feature during the year was an outbreak of yellow fever. This occurred in August at Loyola Park, a Roman Catholic College situated about a mile from the town of Belize, and having at that time over one hundred day scholars from Belize and about one hundred boarders drawn mostly from Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and San Salvador.

29. Three suspicious cases were reported by the College Physician and were diagnosed the same day by Dr. Gann, the Principal Medical Officer, as yellow fever. They were immediately removed to the hospital, where one died the same evening, the autopsy fully confirming the diagnosis. The next day two more cases were reported, and from the 19th to the 25th August fourteen cases in all occurred. This proved it to be a secondary infection. The first case developed on the 14th August, so there must have been one or more infected mosquitoes at some date prior to the 29th of July. This corresponds to the time when the boarders were returning from their vacation. Yellow fever therefore was undoubtedly introduced from outside as no case had occurred in the Colony since 1905.

30. In 1920 and 1921 it was prevalent in Guatemala and San Salvador and it still exists in Mexico. Probably an ambulatory case arrived amongst the boys so slight as to be unrecognized. The authorities took prompt action. The College was quarantined and the buildings fumigated, but as further cases occurred the whole of the inmates were removed to an isolation station on one of the islands, with the result that no more cases occurred and all were returned on the 23rd September. Three isolated cases occurred in Belize, the last on the 13th November.

31. The infection undoubtedly reached the town, and it is surprising that more cases did not occur amongst a large non-immune population many of whom were particularly susceptible. That such did not occur is, in the opinion of the Principal Medical Officer, due to the Noguchi vaccine which was supplied gratis by the Rockefeller Foundation and largely used, particularly amongst the susceptible class. The serum also undoubtedly reduced the death-rate amongst the sufferers.

32. In response to an invitation by the Government two representatives of the Rockefeller International Board of Health arrived on the 29th September from Guatemala to assist in the preventive measures to be taken against the disease. An energetic campaign was at once commenced, with the result that the " House Index " was reduced by the end of December to nearly the safety limit. But it is costly work and at the best of a temporary nature. Belize is swampy and has no natural drainage. It is entirely dependent on rain-water for its water supply.

33. The screening of the water vats, barrels and other containers quickly becomes defective, due to the rapid deterioration of the wire screening and the carelessness of the inhabitants. The only permanent solution of the danger is an adequate pipe water supply and the raising of the low-lying parts of the town—the latter of which will also help to eradicate malarial fever.

34. One of the greatest problems of the Colony is how to banish malaria. It is the pivot on which all public health problems balance. Every industry and occupation is greatly handicapped by its ravages. As Dr. Wise, in writing of British Guiana,

says, " It is a blight on the land. People are poisoned with it at birth and live in infancy and childhood with a millstone around their necks."

35. The untiring efforts to eradicate the Stegomyia mosquito that carries the yellow fever germ have had some effect in reducing the breeding places of the Anopheles that convey malaria.

36. It is hoped that in the near future, with the institution of a Health Commission and the strong anti-mosquito campaign undertaken by the Medical Authorities with the assistance of an expert Sanitary Inspector, there will be an improvement in the sanitary state of affairs in the Colony.

VITAL STATISTICS.

37. In this year a census of the population has been taken by the Registrar-General. His report has not yet been presented, but it is known that the population is 45,317, consisting of 22,564 males and 22,753 females.

Births registered in 1921	1,616.
Deaths	1,116.

370 marriages were registered in 1921, the rate being 8·13 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 11·29 for 1920. Of the 1,616 births, 820 were males and 796 were females. The birth-rate works out 35·456 per 1,000 of the population, as against 45·03 per 1,000 during 1920.

38. Of the 1,116 deaths, 568 were males and 548 were females, the death-rate being 24·507 per 1,000 of the population, a little lower than the normal rate of the Colony. The rate in 1920 was 25·00 and in 1919 was 27·35 per 1,000.

39. During 1921 there were 256 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving a proportion per centage of the total deaths registered of 22·9, and comparing with 22·2 per cent. for the year 1920. Between one year and five years of age there were 168 deaths in 1921, comparing with 173 deaths of infants classified in the same group in 1920. The proportion of deaths to each 100 births of infants between one and five years of age in 1921 was 26·2 per cent., and in 1920 it was 21·0 per cent.

40. The principal causes of death during 1921 in order of degree were from diseases of the digestive system, followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the genito-urinary system. Deaths from malaria give a proportion of 10·0 per cent. of the total deaths, and tuberculosis accounted for 6·9 per cent. of all the deaths registered.

SPORT.

41. In the department of sport there is good entertainment for the dauntless hunter whose love of the chase is greater than his susceptibility to the many small annoyances of a tropical forest. In the neighbourhood of towns, villages, and mahogany camps there

is very little game to be found, but good sport may be had in those parts which are away from the haunts of men. Of large animals the jaguar, puma, tiger cat and tapir are the most popular objects of chase in the thick forest, while of smaller and edible animals and birds, the antelope, armadillo, gibonet, the wild turkey, with his cousins the curassow and the quam, provide a sufficient variety of food. The wild turkey (*Meleagris ocellatus*) is also valued for his plumage. Deer are plentiful in the pine forests, and in the numerous rivers and lagoons the hunter may, with the aid of head-light and harpoon, indulge in the exciting but not dangerous sport of spearing alligators from a canoe. In the sea and lower reaches of the rivers the fisherman finds an abundance of fish, including large tarpon. There is a polo club, a golf club and two lawn tennis clubs.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

42. Import duties during the year 1921–22 compared with the previous year show a decrease of about $133,480. The total receipts were only $387,111. Losses were, however, incurred under all heads of revenue, particularly in duty on imports.

43. Excise duty on rum and export duty on chicle decreased respectively $15,138 and $25,505 on the previous year's takings. The whole Customs and Excise duties were less by $184,900 than in the previous year, and $96,032 less than the Estimates. Exports of coconuts were higher than in any year since 1915, while exports of bananas and chicle were less than in 1920; exports of plantains were much greater. Logwood, which was once the principal export of the Colony, dwindled to 760 tons last year. In 1896 as much as 34,539 tons were exported. Exports of mahogany were fairly well maintained, 9,649,582 ft. having been shipped during the year. On the other hand, 2,577,481 lb. of chicle were exported compared with 136,391 lb. twenty years ago. Only 215,306 lb. of the chicle exported in the year under review was bled in British Honduras. 199,137 lb. of copra also were exported.

44. Exports of oranges amounted to 69,172 in number, and of sponges to 2,719 lb. Turtle shell to the extent of 2,036 lb. also was exported.

II. GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

45. The revenue and expenditure of the Colony for the past five years were as follows:—

REVENUE.

1917–18.	1918–19.	1919–20.	1920–21.	1921–22.
$676,227	$721,233	$1,065,622	$1,129,932	$1,105,206

EXPENDITURE.

1917–18.	1918–19.	1919–20.	1920–21.	1921–22.
$675,234	$670,736	$981,816	$928,816	$1,410,780

46. The amount of the public debt outstanding on the 31st March, 1922, was $665,334. The assets and liabilities on the same date were $524,211 and $299,506 respectively. The amount of the balance of account at 31st March, 1922, was $224,705.

TAXATION.

47. No fresh taxation was imposed during the year but the *ad valorem* duties on Customs imports were increased from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent. under the General Tariff by Ordinance No. 21 of 1921. The export duty on coconuts was reduced to $1.00 per thousand on account of the low prices obtained for them. It was formerly $2.00 per thousand. The export duty on liquors was reduced from 20 per cent. *ad valorem* to 10 per cent. *ad valorem* by Ordinance No. 4 of 1921. By an Order in Council of the 31st August cases and crates for packing fruit for export were exempted from import duty for one year.

INCOME TAX.

48. This year was the first in which incomes were assessed for tax in accordance with the law passed in 1920. Out of a population of over 45,000 people only 452 were assessed for tax. The amount assessed was $72,279.40.

III. ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE, AND INDUSTRY.

TRADE.

49. The value of the Colony's trade was $6,388,591, of which $3,343,132 was the value of imports and $3,045,459 of exports. The United States of America supplied 56 per cent. of the imports and took 76 per cent. of the exports; the Empire, 21 per cent. of imports and 17 per cent. of exports.

50. Although the Colony's trade for the year 1921 shows a falling off as compared with that of 1920, chiefly due to decrease in values, it has been none the less steadily maintained and is in excess of that of 1917.

51. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of the trade.

AGRICULTURE.

52. Much of the large area of scrub-land in this Colony is the result of the wasteful deforestation by fire which has been going on for centuries. It is to be hoped that, with a new forest department and the introduction of capital into the Colony, a stop will be put to the indiscriminate forest fires, and that people will learn to become agriculturists in the only profitable and true way, that is, by using modern methods of tillage.

53. In 1920 the Colony was visited by Mr. W. R. Dunlop, a member of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies, with the view of giving expert advice on matters relating to agricultural development. He presented an exhaustive report in 1921, with recommendations for establishing a local agricultural department, but owing to the depressed financial condition of the Colony it has not yet been possible to carry out his recommendations.

54. Agricultural land is easily obtainable either from the Crown at from $2.00 to $4.00 an acre or from private owners at about $5.00 to $6.00 an acre. The cost of survey is about $1.50 an acre. The land tax is very light, being only 1½ cents an acre, except near the Stann Creek Railway, where the tax is 8½ cents an acre. All tropical produce grows in abundance. For the capitalist who thinks of agricultural investments no soil in the world is more suitable. There is also excellent pasturage for cattle-raising. The Great Southern Pine Ridge alone is capable of supporting thousands of head of cattle.

INDUSTRY.

55. Sugar is still made in certain parts of the Northern and Southern districts but only for local consumption. The low prices obtained checked any development of the industry. Without modern machinery and scientific cultivation of the soil, both of which require capital, no progress can ever be made in the sugar industry. The output was 2,908 barrels in the Corozal District, 495 barrels in Orange Walk, and 4,500 barrels in Toledo. Rum is made as a by-product of the sugar industry; the quantity made during the year being 45,484 proof gallons. Panama disease continued to attack the banana fields, and the industry in the Stann Creek Valley has been practically ruined, with great loss of revenue to the Government railway. A small soap-making industry was started in the town of Stann Creek, cohune nut oil being used in making the soap.

FISHING.

56. There was no development during the year of the sponge industry. A visit from Mr. Crawshay, the expert in the Bahamas, was hoped for but did not materialise. He had examined and written a favourable report on some samples sent to him.

57. The sea around the cayes teems with excellent eating fish, the best known being snapper, grooper, king-fish, Spanish mackerel

and barracouta. Turtle, both logger-head and hawk's bill, are captured for the sake of the shell, a fair amount of which is exported. Green turtle are fairly plentiful and are in great request as food. Tarpon fishing is indulged in as a sport.

IV. PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

58. In November 1921 an extremely useful and interesting report on the forests of the Colony, with suggestions for a far-reaching forest policy, was made by Mr. C. Hummel. As the Colony's forests form its entire natural wealth his proposals have excited much interest. They appear to be based on a wise conservation of existing mahogany trees, of reafforesting used-up lands, and of exploiting other valuable woods which have hitherto attracted little attention through want of knowledge of their qualities.

59. It is not expected that any great immediate benefits to the Colony will accrue, but there is no doubt that future generations will reap the benefit of adopting a sound conservative forestry policy now, and that the future of the Colony will be assured if its wonderful resources are not dissipated without adequate replacement.

60. The proposals made in 1920 to develop the Chipley Pine Concessions so far as the territory between Sittee River and Deep River was concerned were more or less at a standstill in 1921.

61. This does not mean that the proposals were abandoned. An interview was obtained by Mr. Hummel, the forestry officer, with the concessionaires in Florida in June and certain plans for action were agreed on. Mr. Hummel has proceeded to England, and it is expected that in a few months, on his return, operations to bleed and cut trees on a large scale will be entered on. Meanwhile another Florida Company is operating with considerable success and much hopefulness on private lands. The flow of turpentine is said to be satisfactory.

62. A large British timber company sent a representative to the Colony in the latter part of the year to examine the mahogany forests and it is believed that he has reported very favourably on the trees in the Western district. It is hoped that in time the Government railway at Stann Creek may be extended to tap this district.

63. In June a geologist from Australia, Mr. L. H. Ower, was sent out by the Colonial Office to investigate and report on the geology of the Colony with a view to discovering whether oil or minerals exist in paying quantities. The Scottish-American Oil Company also sent a representative. The results of their investigations were not known at the close of the year.

V. BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

64. In February, 1921, a law was passed giving the Governor power to extend the law relating to Foreign Banks to banks not under British control.

65. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking business in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes, having to use the currency notes of the Government. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The amount due to depositors on the 31st March, 1922, was $156,054.41, as against $163,158.40 in 1921. At all the district treasury offices branches are established. The interest allowed is 3 per cent.

CURRENCY.

66. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of tens, fives, twos and one dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely.

VI. EDUCATION.

67. The system of education continues to be the same as that inaugurated in 1894, with the addition of the compulsory attendance law of 1915 which is now in force in practically the whole Colony. Generally the maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. The school age for the purpose of grants as given by the Government on the monthly average attendances commences at five years and ends at sixteen years. Though the cost of living has been reduced the Government still continues to make special grants to teachers in addition to their ordinary salaries for which the managers are responsible. This is because it has been felt that the ordinary salary of a teacher is still too small. It is hoped that in time the Government will be able to introduce a system of salaries instead of the present system of school grants. Unfortunately, the finances of the Colony do not at present admit of this change, which, of course, would necessitate a large increase in the education vote.

68. The total grants for the year 1921 amounted to $44,999.63, which included special increases to teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building and furniture. In

most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory, and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was $2,442. The number of aided schools in operation in 1921 was 59 as against 58 in 1920. In Belize District there are 21, in Corozal District, 9, in Orange Walk District, 8, in Cayo District, 4, in Stann Creek District, 8, and in Toledo, 9.

69. The total number of pupils on roll in the aided schools was 6,683; of these 3,510 were boys and 3,173 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,027, of which 2,647 were boys and 2,380 girls.

70. There were 81 certificated teachers and 55 pupil-teachers employed during the year. The former are obtained from the pupil-teachers class which, though the best obtainable, is by no means the most satisfactory, the present system of training pupil-teachers leaving much to be desired. There were also 40 teachers without certificates.

71. There are a few private elementary schools in the Colony which are unaided. These have a total of 400 pupils on roll with an average attendance of 300.

SECONDARY.

72. Secondary education is still a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year was $799.19. These schools have a total roll of 481 and an average attendance of 345, but only about one hundred of these receive secondary education. In December, twenty pupils were presented for the Cambridge Examinations, eleven for the Preliminary and nine for the Junior. The results are not yet known. The ordinary rate of fees in these schools is $3.00 a month. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 7,560; boys, 3,940, girls, 3,620, and the average attendance is 5,670; boys, 2,980, and girls, 2,690. This shows that about 67 per cent. of the children of school age are under instruction.

73. The expenditure for the year was $75,555.48, which shows an increase over 1920 of $15,848.32. There were large expenses incurred by the churches in the erection of new school buildings.

TECHNICAL.

74. There is little technical education undertaken in this Colony.

75. The teaching in this branch is limited to needlework in the girls' schools. There are now only two students at the Farm School at Hope, Jamaica, of the four sent in 1920. The other two retired. It is to be regretted that there are no industrial schools in the Colony.

VII. LEGISLATION.

76. Ordinance No. 13 of 1921 amended the Income Tax Law of 1920, particularly as regards relief for wife and children, double assessment and double income tax.

77. Ordinance No. 14 regulates the Coastal and River Trade Passenger Vessels, chiefly to ensure against overcrowding and accidents.

78. Ordinance No. 19 reduced the export duty on coconuts to $1.00 per thousand.

79. The Immigrants Ordinance No. 20 restricts undesirables from entering the Colony.

80. Various Public Health Amending Ordinances and Ordinances regarding the raising of loans were also passed.

VIII. METEOROLOGICAL.

81. These observations apply only to Belize.

82. The hottest day of the year was the 5th September, on which the thermometer registered 88° F., and the coldest day the 29th January, when it registered 58° F. Maximum precipitation was on the 6th October and was 2·8 in. The total rainfall was 85·92 in. The maximum wind velocity was 48 miles an hour on the following dates, 15th January, 24th and 25th June, and 26th July.

83. The Colony is outside the track of hurricanes, and earthquakes are unknown. From October to January cool northerly winds blow at times.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS.

84. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats and by the latter on the rivers. There is a short railway from the sea-coast going inland, near Stann Creek Town, about 25 miles in length. It taps banana plantations.

85. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine run a steamer via Jamaica every three weeks and the Harrison Line a monthly steamer from Liverpool. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London.

86. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

Roads.

87. In the Corozal District a good road was built across the Louisville swamp. This is the main road from the town to the Rio Hondo. Apart from this no road-building was undertaken.

The Colony is urgently in need of good roads, the total length of metalled roads outside Belize being only about 30 miles. The difficulty of obtaining material and its cost make road-building very expensive.

X. PUBLIC WORKS.

88. A new hospital has been built in the Cayo District.

89. No works of any size were undertaken during the year.

XI. SHIPPING.

90. In 1921, 204 sailing vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 6,088 tons and 355 steam vessels of 232,893 tons entered the Colony, of which 123 sailing vessels representing 3,277 tons and 131 steam vessels of 73,877 tons were British.

XII. POSTAL, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

91. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 500 miles of lines with thirty offices.

92. Great difficulties were experienced in maintaining the lines in order owing to the wild and swampy description of the country through which most of the lines pass. The marvel is that communication is as good as it is. The charge for telegrams is 25 cents for the first fifteen words and 1 cent for each additional word. The number of inland and foreign telegrams transmitted during the year was 22,492.

93. There is a wireless station in Belize which communicates with the United Fruit Company's ships. Improvements have been made in the station during the year and it is hoped that in the near future direct communication with Jamaica will be established.

94. There is one telephone exchange in Belize with about two hundred and fifty subscribers. It is a Government department.

XIII. CLIMATE.

95. The climate of British Honduras has the reputation of being a very unhealthy one, but facts show that far from being unhealthy the climate compares not unfavourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations.

96. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

XIV. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

97. No modern handbook of the Colony exists. The Colonial Secretary's report for 1920 published by His Majesty's Stationery Office may be had for 1*s*. at the addresses printed on the cover of this report.

98. There is an Annual Report on Trade by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published by the Government Printing Office.

MAX SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

17*th August*, 1922.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page.

ANNUAL.

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No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
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84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

To

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1181

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1922.

(For Report for 1921 see No. 1136.)

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No. 1181.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1922,

with Financial Information up to 31st March, 1923.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude. It is bounded by Yucatan on the north and west and by Guatemala on the west and south. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore larger than Wales and slightly smaller than Palestine. It is divided into six Districts, namely, Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Cayo and Toledo. There are numerous islands called cayes off the mainland whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The town of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between 1 and 4 miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 ft. of water can approach the port. At the town of Stann Creek there is a railway pier alongside of which vessels drawing up to 14 ft. can lie. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 ft. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many,

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provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate is, on the whole, healthy and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, quite pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidently through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at a place called Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to

Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. In 1756 these customs were formally recognized by the King's Government, after the visit of Admiral Sir William Burnaby to the settlement in that year. The customs of the settlers were codified and published, and became known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1776 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council contains five official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1899, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to

Ordinance No. 9 of 1913, a revised edition of the Consolidated Laws has been published in two volumes. This edition came into force on 14th January, 1915, and supersedes the edition published in 1887 and all ordinances passed before June, 1914. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 16 of the Consolidated Laws.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and six members, three of whom are *ex officio*, the other three appointed members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, comprising the extreme south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual functions of that office.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 87 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition) there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 89 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition). The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I.—GENERAL.

15. The Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence on 21st August, 1922, and was absent during the remaining portion of the year. His Excellency returned from leave of absence on 8th January, 1923. During his absence the Government was administered by Lieut-Colonel Maxwell Hinds Smith, Colonial Secretary.

16. The deaths during the year of the following Members of Councils are recorded with regret:—

Hon. C. Melhado, C.M.G., Unofficial Member of the Executive Council; Hon. W. F. Wade, Unofficial Member of the Legislative Council.

17. The general trade depression experienced in 1921 was continued in 1922 although the situation had improved to some extent. The chicle slump of 1921 was still being felt in 1922. Investors in the gathering of that commodity having suffered very heavy losses of monies advanced to contractors, and others were in many cases unable or unwilling to advance further sums to carry on the industry to any large extent.

The Cayo or Western District of the Colony was the locality which was hit hardest by the slump and curtailment of the industry.

18. As pointing to an improvement in trade, the number of labourers engaged under time agreement were more by 179 than in 1921.

The distribution was as follows :—

District.	Mahogany.	Agriculture	Other.	Total.
Toledo	58	31	—	89
Cayo	44	2	5	51
Belize	1,046	43	8	1,097
Corozal	43	75	—	118
Stann Creek	20	31	7	58
Orange Walk	104	26	1	131
Total ..	1,315	208	21	1,544

19. A considerable number of labourers, artisans, mechanics and others left the Colony during the year for the neighbouring Republics of Guatemala and Honduras, attracted thereto by much higher wages than those offered locally. It is doubted, however, whether the increased remuneration to be received will compensate entirely for the curtailment of liberty and the uncertainty of life and property due to the political disturbances which occur from time to time in those countries.

20. It is greatly to be regretted that a general scheme for the formation of an Agricultural Department in the Colony to assist, educate and direct persons entering into the pursuit of agriculture, which had reached an advanced stage, had to be abandoned on account of the inability of General Revenue to meet the initial outlay and cost of maintenance of such a Department. Everything would seem to point to the necessity for such a Department in the very near future, as there is little doubt that the Colony will have to depend in the future in a large measure on her agricultural resources which only await the advent of capital and the introduction into the Colony of agricultural labour until such time as her woodcutters (who in that capacity are second to none in the world) shall have turned their attention to agriculture.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

21. No record is kept of the gains and losses to the Colony occasioned by immigration and emigration. Arrivals in, and departures from, appear more or less to counterbalance, and an estimate over a period of years supports this view.

Most of the emigration, however, has been to the neighbouring Central American Republics, by men in search of work.

There has been no perceptible immigration into the Colony either from the West Indian Colonies or from the Central American Republics.

II.—PUBLIC HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS AND CLIMATE.

22. The Yellow Fever Executive Commission came into existence in April, but, just previous to this, a special appropriation was made and the staff organized. The Rockefeller Foundation, who has been working here on mosquito destruction, reduced their staff as regards the oilers and inspectors, but did not cease operation until August, 1922.

23. The Staff of the Sanitary Department was then increased from two Inspectors of Nuisances, who were paid by the Town Board of Belize, to seven, five of whose salaries were paid by the Health Commission, while the salary of the Senior Inspector, who is still paid from the funds of the Town Board, was increased, from the Health Commission funds, by ten dollars per month. On the advice of the Rockefeller Foundation, it was decided to place an Inspector in each of the towns of Stann Creek, Punta Gorda, and Corozal to do no other but mosquito work, and this arrangement still holds. The staff at Belize in the meantime directed their energies towards clearing the town of rubbish, cleaning overgrown lots, filling in low-lying lots and serving notices on persons to have their vats and other water receptacles screened.

PREVALENT DISEASES.

24. *Malaria.*—There were registered during the year in Belize District nine deaths from malaria, the average mortality during the previous four years having been twelve. The morbidity from this disease, which is naturally more difficult to estimate accurately, is, according to most of the medical practitioners in the town, on the decrease; a fact probably due to increased precautions in carrying out the provisions of the Mosquito Destruction Ordinance, and the more efficient cleaning of yards, aftermaths of the yellow fever outbreak of the previous year.

25. *Tetanus Neonatorum.*—Two deaths were registered from this disease, as against an average mortality of four during the

previous four years. It is hoped that with the new type of trained midwife now gradually taking the place of the older generation in Belize, this disease may before long be completely eradicated.

26. *Whooping Cough.*—This disease was prevalent in the Belize District throughout the year, seven cases being admitted to the hospital. It was not, however, of a very severe type. In the Orange Walk and Corozal districts the disease was also very prevalent; there, however, it was of a much more virulent type, no less than 80 deaths in Corozal and 25 in Orange Walk having been certified as occurring from it. This high mortality in these districts is due to the fact that a large proportion of their inhabitants are Maya Indians, who, unlike other races in the Colony, enjoy no hereditary immunity to the disease. Whooping cough of a rather virulent type was also prevalent in the Toledo and Stann Creek Districts.

27. *Anthrax.*—Cases of this disease among cattle were reported during the year in the Cayo and Orange Walk Districts. Strenuous methods were immediately resorted to in order to prevent the spread of the disease by treating the affected animals with curative serum, and those which had been exposed to infection prophylactically. Legislation was also enacted dealing with the segregation of affected animals, and those which had been exposed to infection.

A Government Veterinary Surgeon was engaged in November, 1922. He visited the various affected areas and reported that the disease had apparently been completely stamped out.

28. The following data respecting the latest inspection in Belize by the Health Commission are interesting :—

FOURTH INSPECTION, HEALTH COMMISSION, 1922.

Date.	*Number of Houses Visited.*	*Water Receptacles.*	*Receptacles containing Larvae.*	*Houses containing Larvae.*
Dist : 1	467	921	29	14
Dist : 2	492	1,011	8	20
Dist : 3	465	916	86	16
Dist : 4	424	655	48	14
Dist : 5	407	474	35	21
Dist : 6	421	1,050	81	20
Totals ..	2,676	5,070	287	105

Houses Index	3·5 per cent.
Wells	3·5 ,,
Barrels	11·6 ,,
Tanks	1·4 ,,
Others	7·4 ,,

Classification of Receptacles.				*Receptacles with Larvae.*			
Wells.	*Tanks.*	*Barrels.*	*Other Receptacles.*	*Wells.*	*Tanks.*	*Barrels.*	*Other Receptacles.*
84	2,265	608	2070	3	33	71	153

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FIFTH INSPECTION, HEALTH COMMISSION, 1922.

Date.		*Number of Houses Visited.*	*Water Receptacles.*	*Receptacles containing Larvae.*	*Houses containing Larvae.*
Dist : 1 ..	..	467	933	10	4
Dist : 2 ..	..	492	1,001	124	18
Dist : 3 ..	..	465	717	24	0
Dist : 4 ..	..	434	788	59	2
Dist : 5 ..	..	407	609	36	5
Dist : 6 ..	..	421	1,050	29	6
Totals	..	2,676	4,198	292	35

Houses Index	..	...	1·3 per cent.
Wells	..	..	..	2·4 „
Barrels	..	..	..	8·6 „
Tanks	..	..	..	0·4 „
Others	..	..	..	8·1 „

Classification of Receptacles.				*Receptacles with Larvae.*			
Wells.	*Tanks.*	*Barrels.*	*Other Receptacles.*	*Wells.*	*Tanks.*	*Barrels.*	*Other Receptacles.*
83	2,262	744	2,156	2	9	64	175

VITAL STATISTICS.

29. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1922, was 45,717, as follows:—

Males ...	...	...	...	...	...	22,688
Females	...	...	...	...	...	23,029

30. The number of births registered during the year was 1,784 and the number of deaths 1,406.

31. The number of marriages registered in 1922 was 327, the rate being 7·12 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 8·13 for 1921. Of the 1,784 births, 913 were males and 871 were females. The birth-rate works out 39·059 per 1,000 of the population, as against 35·456 per 1,000 during 1921.

32. Of the 1,406 deaths, 687 were males and 719 were females, the death-rate being 30·752 per 1,000 of the population. The rate in 1921 was 24·507 and in 1920 was 25·00 per 1,000.

33. There was a considerable rise in the number of infant deaths. The index of 158 out of each 1,000 births in 1921 increased in 1922 to no less than 215, which, it must be admitted, is an alarming rise, but is partly accounted for by an epidemic of whooping cough. Taking the ages 0–5 years together, the results show that, out of each 1,000 births in 1922, only 638 children attained their fifth birthday. In the year 1921, 194 more lives of these tender ages (or 832 children out of every 1,000 born) survived to reach the fifth anniversary of their birth.

34. This increase in infant deaths is ascribed, directly or indirectly, to the prevalence of whooping cough in the Colony in the earlier part of 1922. Amongst the certified deaths only 28 cases,

or 4·8 per cent. of all the deaths, were stated on the medical certificates to be due to whooping cough, but no less than 153 cases of the same disease amongst the uncertified deaths (or 23·3 per cent.) were attributed to whooping cough alone or allied with some other disease.

35. The principal causes of death during 1922, in order of degree, were from disease of the respiratory system, followed by those of the digestive system, and then by those classified under the genito urinary system. Deaths from malaria give a proportion of 6·7 per cent. of the total deaths, tuberculosis 9·2 per cent., and broncho-pneumonia 10·6 per cent. of all the deaths registered.

CLIMATE.

36. The climate of British Honduras has the reputation of being a very unhealthy one, but facts show that far from being unhealthy the climate compares not unfavourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations.

37. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

38. The highest rainfall registered in 1922 was at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 151·19 inches, and 192 days on which rain fell. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 27·10 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 58·02 inches in 132 days.

39. The hottest day for the year 1922 was the 14th May, on which the thermometer registered 93·5°F, and the coldest day the 14th January, when it registered 56°F. The maximum wind velocity was 35 miles per hour on 7th February and 20th June. The maximum precipitation was in the month of October and was 7·60 inches in ten days.

III.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

40. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1923, amounted to $1,137,529.44, being $32,322.54 in excess of the revenue of the preceding year. The principal item which contributed to this increase was Customs Duties.

EXPENDITURE.

41. The expenditure for the financial year 1922–23 was estimated at $1,477,194, but the amount actually spent was $1,098,915.27, which shows a decrease of $378,278.73 as compared with the Estimates for the year and is less than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by $311,865.19. This decrease was chiefly due to the programme of Loan Works not having been completed.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

42. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1923, were $529,470.99, and the liabilities $266,151.59, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $263,319.40. Assets consist mainly of advances to local bodies. The main liability is the amount due to the Government Savings Bank. The available cash balances total $119,525.93, including a sum of $100,000 available under Ordinance No. 28 of 1921.

CURRENCY.

43. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of tens, fives, twos and one dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1923, the value of currency notes in circulation was $224,544, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of $89,607 in gold, and $134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

44. The interest on investments was $10,479.50, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

45. The statement of assets and liabilities shows a surplus of $41,367.

46. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1923, was:—

Silver	$190,159.75
Nickel Bronze	5,499.90
Bronze	5,650.39

PUBLIC DEBT.

47. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at $1,073,164, as compared with $821,084 in 1921–1922. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $154,144.10, market value, as compared with $138,321.04 in the previous year. Of the loan of $1,000,000, authorised by Ordinance No. 28 of 1921 to meet the cost of certain public works and improvements, a sum of $177,600 was raised bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of $230,230 was advanced by the Crown Agents, bearing interest at current bank rate.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

48. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-Department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of $153,420.26 to the credit of 1,238 depositors on 31st March, 1923, against

$156,054.41 to the credit of 1,107 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1923, was $150,000. The interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

49. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $6,107,999, or $280,592 less than the trade of the previous year, 1921; a decrease of $52,730 in imports and $227,862 in exports. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

IMPORTS.

50. The total value of imports of merchandise during 1922 was $3,290,402, as against $3,343,132 during 1921, a decrease of $52,730.

51. The following table shows the imports under the main heads of classification :—

	1921.	*1922.*
Food, drink and tobacco	$1,218,147	$1,261,401
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	787,456	490,625
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	1,321,116	1,534,303
Miscellaneous and unclassified	16,413	4,073
	$3,343,132	$3,290,402

52. The following table shows whence imports are received :—

	Value.	*Percentage.*
United States of America ...	$1,890,690	57·46
United Kingdom and other ports of the British Empire	900,815	27·38
Mexico	231,118	7·02
Guatemala	110,767	3·36
Honduras	74,606	2·26
France	28,125	·85
Other countries	54,881	1·67
	$3,291,002	100·00

53. In view of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1920, it is interesting to record that the value of imports from Canada during 1922 was $156,750, an increase, over the preceding year, of $13,050.

EXPORTS.

54. The total value of exports of merchandise was $2,817,597, as against $3,045,459, a decrease of $227,862.

The following table shows the exports under the main heads of classification :—

	1921.	*1922.*
Food, drink and tobacco	$460,858	$514,776
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,493,315	2,220,505
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	72,856	69,396
Miscellaneous and unclassified	18,430	12,920
	$3,045,459	$2,817,597

55. The following table shows the direction of exports during 1922 :—

	Value.	*Percentage.*
United States of America ...	$2,003,981	71·13
United Kingdom and other ports of the British Empire	546,062	19·38
Mexico	199,000	7·06
Nicaragua	32,806	1·17
Honduras	18,985	·67
Guatemala	10,763	·38
France	6,000	·21
	$2,817,597	100·00

CANADA.

56. The value of exports to Canada during 1922 totalled $16,334, as against $14,390 in 1921.

AGRICULTURE.

57. Much of the large area of scrub-land in this Colony is the result of the wasteful deforestation by fire which has been going on for centuries. It is to be hoped that, with a new Forest

Department and the introduction of capital into the Colony, a stop will be put to the indiscriminate forest fires, and that people will learn to become agriculturists in the only profitable and true way, that is, by using modern methods of tillage.

58. Agricultural land is easily obtainable either from the Crown at from $2.00 to $4.00 an acre, or from private owners at about $5.00 to $6.00 an acre. The cost of survey is about $1.50 an acre. The land tax is very light, being only 1½ cents an acre, except near the Stann Creek Railway, where the tax is 8½ cents an acre. All tropical produce grows in abundance. For the capitalist who thinks of agricultural investments no soil in the world is more suitable. There is also excellent pasturage for cattle-raising. The Great Southern Pine Ridge alone is capable of supporting thousands of head of cattle.

INDUSTRY.

59. Sugar is still made in certain parts of the Northern and Southern Districts, but only for local consumption. The low prices obtained checked any development of the industry. Without modern machinery and scientific cultivation of the soil, both of which require capital, no progress can ever be made in the sugar industry. The output was 3,826 barrels in the Corozal District, 567 barrels in the Orange Walk, and 2,876 barrels in Toledo. Rum is made as a by-product of the sugar industry, the quantity made during the year being 54,500 proof gallons. Panama disease continued to attack the banana fields, and the industry in the Stann Creek Valley has been practically ruined, with great loss of revenue to the Government railway.

FISHING.

60. There was no development during the year of the sponge industry. The principal varieties found in the Colony are:— cotton grass, glove, common grass, wool and soft velvet. The first is found on the shoals and in the neighbourhood of the northern cayes in a fathom of water, and is very plentiful. The glove variety grows to a large size, usually about 2 feet in diameter. The soft velvet and wool are of special interest. Mr. Crawshay, the Research Officer, investigating the sponge fishery in the British West Indies, has reported concerning specimens of the above that on examination they proved to be similar to the superior grades occurring in the Bahamas. It is hoped that his report will lead to an early development of the industry.

61. The sea around the cayes teems with excellent eating fish, the best known being snapper, grooper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel and barracouda. Turtle, both logger-head and hawk's bill, are captured, the latter mainly for the sake of the shell, a fair amount of which is exported. Green turtle are fairly plentiful and are in great request as food. Tarpon fishing is indulged in as a sport.

V.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

62. In November, 1921, an extremely useful and interesting report on the forests of the Colony, with suggestions for a far-reaching forest policy, was made by Mr. C. Hummel. As the Colony's forests form its entire natural wealth his proposals have excited much interest. They appear to be based on a wise conservation of existing mahogany trees, of reafforesting used-up lands, and of exploiting other valuable woods which have hitherto attracted little attention through want of knowledge of their qualities.

It is not expected that any great immediate benefits to the Colony will accrue, but there is no doubt that future generations will reap the benefit of adopting a sound conservative forestry policy now, and that the future of the Colony will be assured if its wonderful resources are not dissipated without adequate replacement.

63. The proposals made in 1920 to develop the Chipley Pine Concessions, so far as the territory between Sittee River and Deep River was concerned, were more or less at a standstill in 1922.

64. The mahogany and chicle market improved considerably towards the end of 1922 and satisfactory prices were offered to contractors for 1923 deliveries. The newly-established Forest Department drew attention to the question of exploiting some of the numerous so-called secondary woods which had remained neglected hitherto. Many inquiries were received during the year, and various proposals for concessions for secondary wood are under consideration.

65. Experiments of bleeding the British Honduras Pine have been made with very satisfactory results as regards the quality and quantity of resin. The pine wood has been tested by private concerns and has been found to be of good lasting quality.

66. Much interest has been taken by private companies in the Colony's stock of silk grass (Arghan fibre), a forest by-product, and there is some hope that a silk grass industry may be established here when the problem of extracting the fibre by machinery is solved.

67. For the first time in the history of this Colony the principles of scientific forestry have been applied. A considerable area of the forests on Crown Land, and of the Belize Estate and Produce Company, has been brought under proper forest management with a view to exploiting these forests more systematically and more profitably according to far-reaching working and transport plans. A start on a fair scale has been made in restocking worked-out mahogany forests on selected areas. A gradually increasing out-turn of wood may be expected in the near future.

68. The Geological survey of the Colony by Mr. L. H. Ower, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., continued throughout the year. The greater part of his time has been spent in the mountainous area in the

southern half of the Colony. The reports contain valuable information, and the exploration of the topographical features of the least known parts of the Colony is of great permanent value in connection with future development schemes, whether agricultural or otherwise.

VI.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

69. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking business in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes, having to use the currency notes of the Government. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under head II.—Financial.

VII.—EDUCATION.

70. The system of education continues to be the same as that inaugurated in 1894, with the addition of the compulsory attendance law of 1915, which is now in force in practically the whole Colony. Generally the maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. The school age for the purpose of grants as given by the Government on the monthly average attendances commences at five years and ends at sixteen years. Though the cost of living has been reduced the Government still continues to make special grants to teachers in addition to their ordinary salaries for which the managers are responsible. This is because it has been felt that the ordinary salary of a teacher is still too small. Since the close of the year under report the Government has introduced a system of fixed salaries to teachers in Assisted Schools, thus changing the system of school grants. It is hoped that the finances of the Colony will permit the continuance of this change, which, of course, necessitates a large increase in the education vote.

71. The total grants paid in 1922 amounted to $46,467.82, which included special increases to teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory, and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was $2,048. The number of aided schools in operation in 1922 was 59, the same as in 1921. In Belize District there are 19, in Corozal District 10, in Orange Walk District 8, in Cayo District 5, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo 9.

72. The total average number of pupils on roll in the aided schools was 6,628; of these 3,448 were boys and 3,180 girls, and the average daily attendance was 4,996, of which 2,623 were boys and 2,373 girls.

73. There were 80 certificated teachers and 55 pupil-teachers employed during the year. The former are obtained from the pupil-teachers class which, though the best obtainable, is by no means the most satisfactory, the present system of training pupil-teachers leaving much to be desired. There were also 41 teachers without certificates.

74. There are a few private elementary schools in the Colony which are unaided. These have a total of about 480 pupils on roll with an average attendance of about 350.

SECONDARY.

75. Secondary education is still a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year was $1,008.23. These schools have a total roll of 446 and an average attendance of 355, but only about 180 of these receive secondary education. In December, 45 pupils were presented for the Cambridge Examinations, 20 for the Preliminary and 21 for the Junior, and four for the Senior. The successes were as follows:—five pupils passed the Preliminary and seven the Junior Examination. The ordinary rate of fees in these schools is $3.00 a month. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 7,554, and the average attendance is 5,687. This shows that about two-thirds of the children of school age are under instruction.

76. The expenditure for the year was $58,021.28, which shows a decrease over 1921 of $17,534.20. There were large expenses incurred by the churches in the erection of new school buildings in 1921.

TECHNICAL.

77. There is little technical education undertaken in this Colony. The teaching in this branch is limited to needlework in the girls' schools. It is to be regretted that there are no industrial schools in the Colony.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

78. During the year 1922 twenty-nine Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest:—

Ordinance No. 10 *of* 1922.—This Ordinance was a General Tariff Ordinance and re-enacted as from 1st April, 1922, the previous temporary increase of certain *ad valorem* duties from

15 per cent. to 20 per cent. which were no longer in force after 31st March, 1922, by the provisions of section 5 of Ordinance No. 21 of 1921.

Ordinance No. 22 *of* 1922.—The Reciprocal Enforcement of Judgment Ordinance, 1922, provides for the enforcement in the Colony of Judgments obtained in a superior Court in the United Kingdom and *vice versa*, and also for the enforcement of Judgments obtained in a superior Court in any part of His Majesty's Dominions, the legislatures of which have made reciprocal provisions for the enforcement of Judgments obtained in the Supreme Court of British Honduras.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

79. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. There is a short railway from the sea-coast going inland, near Stann Creek Town, about 25 miles in length. It taps banana plantations.

80. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine run a steamer via Jamaica every three weeks and the Harrison Line a monthly steamer from Liverpool. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London.

81. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

ROADS.

82. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads, the total length of metalled roads outside Belize being only about 30 miles. The difficulty of obtaining material and its cost make road-building very expensive.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

BELIZE BRIDGE.

83. A new swing bridge over the Belize River connecting the north and south sides of the town has been erected, and was opened for traffic on 24th April, 1923. The work was done under contract by the Jefferson Construction Company, Inc., of New Orleans, La., and the cost, on completion, was $81,702.

HARBOUR WORKS.

84. On 6th January, 1922, a contract was entered into with the Jefferson Construction Company for certain reclamation and harbour works at Fort George. The work has not yet been completed, but

a sea-wall, comprising 1,600 lineal feet of reinforced concrete pile, the erection of two Customs warehouses, each 140 feet by 40 feet, construction of 2,250 lineal feet of roadway, the partial filling of Fort George lands, has been executed.

85. At the date of this report the reclamation has been completed and also the channel leading to the Belize River has been dredged. The channel is 300 feet wide and 3,400 feet long. The total expenditure on harbour works, to the end of the financial year, 1922–1923, was $211,450, the total estimated cost of the work under contract is $285,000.

New Public Buildings.

86. New public offices, to replace those destroyed by fire in 1918, were begun. The estimated cost is $254,102, of which sum $64,104 was expended to 31st March, 1923.

XI.—SHIPPING.

87. In 1922, 263 sailing vessels and 404 steam vessels, with an aggregate total tonnage of 258,244 tons, entered the Colony, of which 191 sailing vessels and 131 steam vessels of a total tonnage of 80,210 tons were British.

Ten sailing vessels and five motor boats were registered during the year. The total tonnage of these amounted to 411 tons.

XII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Post Office.

88. At the end of the year there were 24 Post Offices established in the Colony.

The total number of foreign postal articles passing through the post during the year was 512,345. As compared with 1921, the most striking feature is the growth of the parcels business with the United States of America.

89. Mails to and from the Colony were carried almost entirely by the steamers of the United Fruit Company, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and the Harrison Line. A weekly service, not under contract, is maintained by the United Fruit Company's boats between the Colony and the United States of America, the ports of call in the latter country being New Orleans and Mobile. There is also a monthly service from New York by these steamers. The steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine call here via Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica, returning by the same route about every three weeks. Mail communication with the Southern Republics is maintained principally by the steamers of the United Fruit Company.

90. The following denomination of stamps of the new issue (Nyasaland type) were placed on sale during the year :— 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents and $2.00.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

91. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 430 miles of lines with 30 offices.

There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 266 subscribers.

RADIO TELEGRAPHS.

92. During the year extensive additions and improvements were made to the Radio Telegraph Station at Belize. The installation at present in use is a 5 K.W. (Wireless Specialty Apparatus) 500 cycle quenched spark. The normal wave length of the station is 1,500 metres. A small aerial was, however, erected during the year to allow transmission on the 600 metre wave. In addition, a 25 K.W. Admiralty set was installed, which, although for the special purpose of direct traffic with Jamaica, is not at present in use as the Admiralty station in that Colony has been closed.

XIII.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

93. No modern handbook of the Colony exists. The Colonial Secretary's report for 1921, published by His Majesty's Stationery Office, may be had for 9d., at the addresses printed on the cover of this report.

94. There is an Annual Report on Trade by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published weekly by the Government Printing Office.

MAX SMITH,
Colonial Secretary.

9th October, 1923.

COLONIAL REPORTS, ETC.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1142	Ashanti	1921
1143	Jamaica	"
1144	Falkland Islands	1920
1145	Bahamas	1921–1922
1146	Seychelles	1921
1147	Turks and Caicos Islands	"
1148	British Soloman Islands Protectorate	1921–1922
1149	Mauritius	1921
1150	Sierra Leone	"
1151	Uganda	"
1152	Somaliland	"
1153	Kenya Colony and Protectorate (April-December)	"
1154	Gold Coast	"
1155	Nigeria	1922
1156	Nyasaland	1921
1157	Falkland Islands	"
1158	Weihaiwei	1922
1159	Cyprus	"
1160	Gambia	"
1161	New Hebrides	1921 & 1922
1162	Nyasaland	1922
1163	Zanzibar	"
1164	St. Helena	"
1165	Sierra Leone	"
1166	Trinidad and Tobago	"
1167	Bermuda	"
1168	Grenada	"
1169	St. Lucia	"
1170	Leeward Islands	1921–1922
1171	Fiji	1922
1172	Ceylon	"
1173	Gibraltar	"
1174	British Guiana	"
1175	Barbados	1922–1923
1176	Basutoland	"
1177	St. Vincent	1922
1178	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1922–1923
1179	Mauritius	1922
1180	Swaziland	"

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oil-seeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

Order No 326737

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1215.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1923.

(For Report for 1922 see No. 1181.)

LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
Imperial House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, and 28, Abingdon Street, London, S.W.1;
York Street, Manchester; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;
or 120, George Street, Edinburgh;
or through any Bookseller.
1924.
Price 9d. Net.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1215.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1923.

With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1924.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and the Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. It is divided into six Districts, namely, Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, Stann Creek, Cayo and Toledo. There are numerous islands called cayes off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The town of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between 1 and 4 miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 ft. of water can approach the port. At the town of Stann Creek there is a railway pier alongside

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of which vessels drawing up to 14 ft. can lie. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 ft. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidently through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded, in perpetuity to Great Britain, by treaty with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies, or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had

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grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having " increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated " principally by slaves " at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates

again ruled the settlements. From this latter date superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council contains five official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1899, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 9 of 1913, a revised edition of the Consolidated Laws has been published in two volumes. This edition came into force on 14th January, 1915, and supersedes the edition published in 1887 and all ordinances passed before June, 1914. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 16 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition).

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, comprising the extreme south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law, and is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the Local nominated District Boards.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 87 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition) there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are

mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 89 of the Consolidated Laws (Revised Edition). The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I.—GENERAL.

15. The Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., resumed the administration of the Colony on the 8th January, 1923, on his return from leave of absence.

16. On the 1st April the combined offices of Treasurer and Collector of Customs was abolished. Mr. G. S. W. Smith, Colonial Postmaster, was appointed Treasurer, and Mr. V. Grey-Wilson, Collector of Customs.

17. The death during the year of the following Member of the Legislative Council is recorded with regret:—

Hon. L. R. Grant, Unofficial Member.

18. On the 10th April a serious disaster occurred by the sinking of the motor vessel "E.M.L." near Corozal. Eighteen lives were lost, including the Rt. Rev. F. C. Hopkins, S.J., D.D., Bishop of Athribis and Vicar Apostolic of British Honduras.

19. On the 24th April, 1923, the Governor appointed a Commission to report on certain questions relating to the proposed change in the political constitution of the Colony. The appointment of this Commission arose out of a motion by the Unofficial Section of the Legislative Council on the 10th November, 1921, praying that the existing political constitution of this Colony be amended so as to provide either partly or entirely for the elective principle of representation on the Legislative Council; and that steps be taken by the appointment of a Commission or otherwise to consider and advise on the best means by which proposals for the change may be submitted for His Majesty's approval. On the 29th June, 1923, the Commission duly reported on the question referred to them, and the Report was forwarded to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. At the end of the year under review no reply had been received.

20. In August the Governor was informed that His Majesty the King had been pleased to approve of the award of the Imperial Service Medal to Mr. Joseph Blades, ex-sergeant-major of the British Honduras Police Force, after thirty-five years' of faithful service.

In February a similar despatch intimated that His Majesty the King had been pleased to award the King's Police Medal to Lance-Corporal Theophilus McCain of the British Honduras

Police Force. This coveted decoration has been awarded for conspicuous gallantry and resource displayed in effecting the arrest of two robbers, following on a past record of fearless and efficient service.

21. There was an improvement in trade during the year under review. Markets for mahogany and chicle were favourable, though the dry season and consequent difficulties of transport on the rivers adversely affected the output of the former product; the dry weather also interfered seriously with the tapping of sapodilla for "chicle," causing a material drop in domestic production. There has been, recently, a slight revival in the market for logwood.

22. As pointing to an improvement in trade, the number of labourers engaged under time agreement were more by 509 than in 1922.

The distribution was as follows:—

District.	Mahogany.	Agriculture	Other.	Total.
Toledo	102	67	—	169
Cayo	35	—	—	35
Belize	1,229	34	16	1,279
Corozal	106	133	—	239
Stann Creek	84	25	—	109
Orange Walk	184	38	—	222
Total ..	1,740	297	16	2,053

23. As in 1922, a large number of labourers, artisans, mechanics and others left the Colony during the year for the neighbouring Republics of Guatemala and Honduras, attracted thereto by much higher wages than those offered locally. It is doubted, however, whether the increased remuneration to be received will compensate entirely for the curtailment of liberty and the uncertainty of life and property due to the political and other disturbances that occur from time to time in those countries.

24. It is greatly to be regretted that a general scheme for the formation of an Agricultural Department in the Colony to assist, educate and direct persons entering into the pursuit of agriculture, which had reached an advanced stage, had to be abandoned on account of the inability of General Revenue to meet the initial outlay and cost of maintenance of such a Department. Everything would seem to point to the necessity for such a Department in the very near future, as there is little doubt that the Colony will have to depend to some extent in the future on its agricultural resources, which only await the advent of capital and the introduction into the Colony of agricultural labour until such time as her woodcutters (who, in that capacity, are second to none in the world) shall have turned their attention to agriculture.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

25. No record is kept of the gains and losses to the Colony occasioned by immigration and emigration. Arrivals in, and departures from, appear more or less to counterbalance, and an estimate over a period of years supports this view.

Most of the emigration, however, has been to the neighbouring Central American Republics, by men in search of work, accompanied in many instances by their wives and families.

There has been no perceptible immigration into the Colony either from the West Indian Colonies or from the Central American Republics.

II.—PUBLIC HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS AND CLIMATE.

26. The general health of the Colony, during the year under review, was exceptionally good. There occurred no serious outbreak of any epidemic or infectious disease.

A new Public Health Law was passed (Ordinance No. 8 of 1923) constituting a Central Board of Health in place of the Governor-in-Council; and providing means for improvements in methods of sanitary administration to which the Government is anxious to secure as far as possible with the limited funds placed at its disposal.

PREVALENT DISEASES.

27. *Enteric Fever.*—The Colony is remarkably free from this group of diseases. Only one case was treated in the Belize Hospital and none in the District Hospitals. It is possible that unknown cases occur in the remote settlements.

28. *Malaria.*—112 cases of all types were treated in the Belize Hospital without any deaths. 134 cases were treated in District Hospitals with four deaths. The returns of deaths for the whole Colony show 32 deaths certified by Registered Medical Practitioners from malaria; of these, ten are in the Belize District. On referring to the cause of deaths in cases not certified by Registered Medical Practitioners, there is naturally considerable doubt as to the diagnosis, but it is probable that about 150 were due to malaria. As to the actual prevalance of malaria there are no statistics, but it is probable that malaria is the cause of a great majority of absences from work and invalidity.

29. *Dysentery.*—Sixteen cases of amœbic dysentery and three cases of bacillary dysentery were treated in Belize Hospital with one death; thirty-nine cases of both types were treated in District Hospitals with one death. Ten deaths were certified by Registered Medical Practitioners as due to dysentery. Six of these were in the Belize District.

30. *Tetanus.*—There were eight certified deaths from tetanus.

31. *Pulmonary Tuberculosis.*—Thirty-one cases with sixteen deaths were treated in the Belize Hospital. Twenty-two cases with five deaths were treated in District Hospitals. Forty-one certified deaths from this disease were registered, of which twenty-four were in the Belize District. It is impossible to estimate the number of uncertified deaths from this cause, but they are undoubtedly very many.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

32. *Anti-Mosquito* work continued throughout the year. It is by far the most satisfactory part of all the sanitary work which is done in the Colony. It is, however, not carried out on a large scale, owing to the lack of funds, except in the capital and principal towns. In Belize each Inspector has one section of the town. Eight days in each month are allotted exclusively to mosquito work, and during that time every vat, well, barrel and other water receptacles, including flower vases in the houses, is examined and the presence or absence of larvæ is recorded on special forms. The Chief Sanitary Inspector follows up and checks the Inspectors' work. From these data the index is calculated. It has for some time been below five per cent.

33. *Filariasis* is unknown in the Colony. Plague has never occurred. It is very improbable that it would be brought here by sea as all steamers have to anchor at least a mile from the shore. There are no wharves for large vessels.

34. *Smallpox* has never reached the Colony and the alastrim of Jamaica has also not appeared. The passengers from Jamaica are subject to medical supervision for fourteen days from date of departure unless they are able to produce satisfactory proof of recent vaccination. Vaccination (primary) is carried out fairly well. In 1923 there were 1,764 registered births and 1,479 successful vaccinations. This is quite satisfactory, because infantile mortality accounts for many children before they are vaccinated.

35. House flies are not nearly so common here as in many tropical countries in spite of the fact that the general standard of sanitation is not high.

36. *Helminthic Diseases.*—There was an inspector on special Hookworm work during the year. The Hookworm Ordinance, 1918, confers adequate powers. In addition to examinations and treatments, he orders, when necessary, the construction of latrines.

VITAL STATISTICS.

37. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1923, was 46,527, as follows:—

Males	23,978
Females	23,449

38. The number of births registered during the year was 1,764 and the number of deaths 954.

39. The number of marriages registered in 1923 was 360, the rate being 7·73 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 7·12 for 1922. Of the 1,764 births, 874 were males and 890 were females. The birth-rate works out at 37·91 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 39·06 per 1,000 during 1922.

40. Of the 954 deaths, 484 were males and 470 were females. This shows a total decrease of 452 deaths as compared with the previous year. This is the smallest number registered for any one year during the last ten years. The 954 deaths correspond to a rate of 20·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 30·7 for the year 1922.

41. There was a decrease in the number of infant deaths. The index of 158 out of each 1,000 births in 1921 increased in 1922 to no less than 215; in 1923 it was 133. As compared with 1922 there was an improvement at the rate of 2·5 per cent.

42. The increase in 1922 was due directly or indirectly to the prevalence of whooping cough in the Colony in the earlier part of the year.

43. The principal causes of death during 1923, in order of degree, were from diseases of the digestive system, followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the genito-urinary system. Deaths from malaria give a proportion of 7·9 per cent. of the total deaths, tuberculosis 10·1 per cent., and enteritis 8·6 per cent. of all the deaths registered.

CLIMATE.

44. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

45. The highest rainfall registered in 1923 was at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 149·85 inches, and 186 days on which rain fell. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 25·05 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 42·36 inches in 124 days.

46. The hottest days for the year 1923 were the 17th and 18th October, on which the thermometer registered 91·5° F., and the coldest day the 16th November, when it registered 61·5. The maximum wind velocity was 54 miles an hour on the 13th June. The maximum precipitation was on the 23rd June and was 4·45 inches in 24 consecutive hours.

III.—FINANCIAL.

REVENUE.

47. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1924, amounted to $1,093,149.15, being $44,380.29 less than the revenue of the preceding year.

EXPENDITURE.

48. The expenditure for the financial year 1923–24 was estimated at $1,396,572.00, but the amount actually spent was $1,203,219.87, which shows a decrease of $193,352.13 as compared with the Estimates for the year, but is more than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by $104,304.60. The decrease as compared with the Estimates was chiefly due to the programme of Loan Works not having been completed.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

49. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1924, were $427,907.91, and the liabilities $274,659.23, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $153,248.68. Assets consist mainly of advances to local bodies. The main liability is the amount due to the Government Savings Bank. The available cash balances total $113,532.50, including a sum of $100,000 available under Ordinance No. 28 of 1921.

CURRENCY.

50. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of tens, fives, twos and one dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1924, the value of currency notes in circulation was $224,544, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of $89,607 in gold, and $134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

51. The interest on investments was $11,368.32, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

52. The statement of assets and liabilities shows a surplus of $37,508.

53. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1924, was:—

Silver	$190,159.75
Nickel Bronze	5,499.90
Bronze	6,150.39

PUBLIC DEBT.

54. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at $1,132,094, as compared with $1,073,164 in 1922–23. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $71,702.82 market value, as compared with $154,144.10 in the previous year. Of the loan of $1,000,000, authorised by Ordinance No. 28 of 1921 to meet the cost of certain public works

and improvements, a sum of $177,600 was raised bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of $386,360 was advanced by the Crown Agents, bearing interest at current bank rate.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

55. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-Department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of $171,421.00 to the credit of 1,253 depositors on 31st March, 1924, against $153,420.46 to the credit of 1,238 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1924, was $150,000 and the interest on investments was $6,533.00. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1923–24 was $4,466.41.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

56. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $7,233,572, or $1,125,573 more than the trade of the previous year, 1922; an increase of $746,286 in imports and $379,287 in exports. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

IMPORTS.

57. The total value of imports of merchandise during 1923 was $4,036,688, as against $3,290,402 during 1922; an increase of $746,286.

58. The following table shows the imports under the main heads of classification :—

	1922.	*1923.*
Food, drink and tobacco	$1,261,401	$1,674,287
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	490,625	755,913
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	1,534,303	1,598,659
Miscellaneous and unclassified	4,073	7,829
	$3,290,402	$4,036,688

59. The following table shows whence imports are received:—

	Value.	*Percentage.*
United States of America ...	$1,895,506	46·07
United Kingdom	919,915	22·79
Mexico	490,185	12·14
Canada	357,788	8·86
Guatemala	146,638	3·63
Other British Possessions ...	59,237	1·47
Other countries	203,419	5·04
	$4,036,688	100·00

60. The principal differences in the percentages in comparison with the previous year are as follows:—

United States of America, 46·07 as against 57·46 in 1921; United Kingdom, 22·79 as against 20·28; Mexico, 12·14 as against 7·02.

The gradual increase in trade with Canada, due to the subsidized steamers of the Canadian Mercantile Marine calling at Belize once every three weeks, is an important fact. It is hoped that this trade under preferential agreement will continue to increase. It is interesting to record that the value of imports from Canada during 1923 was $357,788, an increase over the preceding year of $201,038, i.e., 128 per cent.

EXPORTS.

61. The total value of exports of merchandise was $3,196,884 as against $2,817,597 in 1922, an increase of $379,287.

The following table shows the exports under the main heads of classification:—

	1922.	*1923.*
Food, drink and tobacco	$514,776	$696,558
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,220,505	2,374,230
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	69,396	115,984
Miscellaneous and unclassified	12,920	3,707
Bullion and specie ...	—	6,405
	$2,817,597	$3,196,884

62. The following table shows the direction of exports during 1923:—

	Value.	Percentage.
United States of America ...	$2,227,330	69·68
United Kingdom	328,924	10·29
Other British Possessions ...	338,669	10·59
Other countries	301,961	9·44
	$3,196,884	100·00

63. The value of exports to Canada during 1923 totalled $18,339, as against $16,334 in 1922.

AGRICULTURE.

64. Much of the large area of scrub-land in this Colony is the result of the wasteful deforestation by fire which has been going on for centuries. It is to be hoped that the Forest Department and the hoped for introduction of capital into the Colony will check the indiscriminate forest fires, and that the inhabitants will learn to become agriculturists by using modern methods of tillage.

65. Agricultural land is easily obtainable either from the Crown at from $2.00 to $4.00 an acre, or from private owners at about $5.00 to $6.00 an acre. The cost of survey is about $1.50 an acre. The land tax is very light, being only 1½ cents an acre, except near the Stann Creek Railway, where the tax is 10 cents an acre. All tropical produce grows in abundance. For the capitalist who thinks of agricultural investments no soil in the world is more suitable. There is also excellent pasturage for cattle-raising. The Great Southern Pine Ridge alone is capable of supporting thousands of head of cattle.

INDUSTRY.

66. Sugar is still made in certain parts of the Northern and Southern Districts, but only for local consumption. The low prices obtained checked any development of the industry. Without modern machinery and scientific cultivation of the soil, both of which require capital, no progress can ever be made in the sugar industry. The output was about 4,000 barrels in the Corozal District, 575 barrels in the Orange Walk, and 2,940 barrels in Toledo. Rum is made as a by-product of the sugar industry, the quantity made during the year being about 50,000 proof gallons. Panama disease continued to attack the banana fields, and the industry in the Stann Creek Valley has been practically ruined, with great loss of revenue to the Government railway.

FISHING.

67. There was no development during the year of the sponge industry. The principal varieties found in the Colony are:—cotton grass, glove, common grass, wool and soft velvet. The first is found on the shoals and in the neighbourhood of the northern cayes in a fathom of water, and is very plentiful. The glove variety grows to a large size, usually about 2 feet in diameter. The soft velvet and wool are of special interest. Mr. Crawshay, the Research Officer, investigating the sponge fishery in the British West Indies, has reported concerning specimens of the above that on examination they proved to be similar to the superior grades occurring in the Bahamas.

68. The sea around the cayes teems with excellent eating fish, the best known being snapper, grooper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel. Turtle, both logger-head and hawk's bill, are captured, the latter mainly for the sake of the shell, a fair amount of which is exported. Green turtle are fairly plentiful and are in great request as food. Tarpon fishing is indulged in as a sport.

V.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

69. In November, 1921, an extremely useful and interesting report on the forests of the Colony, with suggestions for a far-reaching forest policy, was made by Mr. C. Hummel. As an outcome of this report, a Forest Department was established in April, 1922, when Mr. Hummel was appointed Conservator of Forests. A Forest Trust was established under Ordinance No. 22 of 1923, the object being the development and maintenance of the Crown forests of the Colony, and to advise and assist private owners of forest lands in the development and improvement of their property. The Trust controls the administration of funds for expenditure in forestry developments. A Forestry Loan of $250,000 is being raised and will be at the disposal of the Trust in the manner prescribed by law. The Forest Department consists of a Conservator of Forests and three Assistant Conservators, with Forest Rangers and clerical staff. The proposal is that the expenditure from Loan funds should be extended over a period of thirty years, the cost of the Department being, to a large extent, borne by contributions from General Revenue based on forest revenue.

Four parcels of Crown land, approximately 176,000 acres, have been declared Forest Reserves. Certain exploration work was done by the Forest Department on behalf of foreign "chicle" companies, with a view to the possibilities of applying intensive silviculture to the growing of sapodilla on a large scale for chicle production. The reports are very promising.

The Silk Grass or " Arghan fibre " plant grows plentifully in certain localities of the Colony. As undergrowth, it produces no deleterious effects upon the overwood and can be preserved readily in the Crown Forests. Though growing wild all over the Colony, it is not everywhere that silk grass is found in quantities sufficient for economic exploitation. Frequently it is found in patches and strips near rivers, and with some simple silvicultural aid, and artificial interplanting between natural groups, extensive silk grass areas could be fully stocked at a low cost. A study of the natural reproduction and rate of growth of this plant is being made at the Botanic Station, Belize. Several enquiries regarding silk grass concessions were received during the year.

During the year under review, signs of increasing interest by commercial concerns in the exploitation of the forests of the Colony have been distinctly promising. Numerous interviews and negotiations have taken place regarding the possibilities of exploiting the vast resources of pine and secondary woods and the establishment of sapodilla estates. This interest in concessions, in conjunction with the arrival, during the early part of 1924, of a Deputy Conservator and two Assistant Conservators of Forests, thus augmenting the scope of the Department's activities, is of significance and importance, and appears to foretoken great promise for the future exploitation and scientific development of the forests of British Honduras.

A saw-mill for preparing local pine for local and export trade has been erected and is now in operation at All Pines, while the Riversdale Estate has been purchased by a lumber company as a pine proposition. Another private pine forest was purchased recently for the same purpose; there are distinct signs of competition and of further developments on a fairly large scale.

70. The Geological survey of the Colony by Mr. L. H. Ower, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., continued throughout the year. The greater part of his time was spent in the mountainous area in the southern half of the Colony.

71. During investigation of the Sibun-Middlesex area, a black sand was found, which, on examination by the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau, proved to contain a considerable amount of cassiterite or tinstone, the oxide of tin. The tin, according to the report, appears to consist of " detrital " or " alluvial " material derived from the breaking up of veins of the mineral in the granite of the Cockscomb Mountains and the area to the north, or the metamorphic rocks associated with it. The source has not yet been definitely fixed.

72. The geological mission has expired, but arrangements have since been made for the return to the Colony of Mr. Ower to continue his investigations.

73. The Colony is participating in the British Empire Exhibition in 1924, and an area of 750 square feet has been taken for the British Honduras Pavilion—West Indian and Atlantic Section.

74. Specimens of mahogany, supposed to be the finest in the world, form the outstanding feature of the Exhibition. An effort, however, is being made to advertise other secondary woods which abound in the Colony in a large quantity, the mercantile use of which is as yet unknown—for instance, sapodilla, pine, santa maria, yemery, nargusta, balsa wood, Honduras walnut. A piece of sapodilla taken from an old Indian Temple over 1,200 years old, and a sapodilla post from the old Belize Bridge, illustrate strikingly the durability of this wood. Full information concerning the woods of the Colony is contained in a report of the Conservator of Forests, Mr. C. Hummel, and also in pamphlet No. 3, to be obtained at the Exhibition and from the Colonial Secretary, Belize.

75. An exhibit of grape fruit, demonstrating the possibilities for successful cultivation of that fruit product in the Colony, was shown.

76. A useful and interesting Geography of the Colony of British Honduras, by Mr. A. B. Dillon, Inspector of Schools, has been compiled and published during the year. It is primarily intended for use in the elementary schools, and supersedes a previous geography, published in 1891 by the then Inspector of Schools.

VI.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

77. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking business in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes, having to use the currency notes of the Government. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under head II.—Financial.

VII.—EDUCATION.

78. The system of education continued to be the same as that inaugurated in 1894, with the addition of the compulsory attendance law of 1915, which is now in force in practically the whole Colony. Generally the maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. The school age for the purpose of grants as given by the Government on the monthly average attendances commences at five years and ends at sixteen years. Though the cost of living has been reduced the Government still continues to make special grants to teachers in addition to their ordinary salaries for which the managers are responsible. This is because it has been felt that the ordinary salary of a teacher is still too small.

Since the close of the year under report the Government has introduced a system of fixed salaries to teachers in Assisted Schools, thus changing the system of school grants. It is hoped that the finances of the Colony will permit the continuance of this change, which, of course, necessitates a large increase in the education vote.

79. The total grants paid in 1923 amounted to $51,587.83, which included special increases to teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory, and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was $2,048. The number of aided schools in operation in 1923 was 65 as against 59 in 1922. In Belize District there are 22, in Corozal District 11, in Orange Walk District 8, in Cayo District 6, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo 10.

80. The total number of pupils on roll in the aided schools was 6,774; of these 3,527 were boys and 3,247 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,250, of which 2,747 were boys and 2,503 girls.

81. There were 88 certificated teachers and 55 pupil-teachers employed during the year. The former are obtained from the pupil-teachers class which, though the best obtainable, is by no means the most satisfactory, the present system of training pupil-teachers leaving much to be desired. There were also a number of teachers without certificates.

82. There are a few private elementary schools in the Colony which are unaided. These have a total of about 500 pupils on roll with an average attendance of about 350.

SECONDARY.

83. Secondary education continued to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of few hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year 1922 was $792.30. These schools have a total roll of 499 and an average attendance of 458, but only about one-half of these receive secondary education. In December, 44 pupils were presented for the Cambridge Examinations, 30 for the Preliminary, 11 for the Junior, and 3 for the Senior. The successes were as follows:—15 pupils passed the Preliminary and 3 the Junior Examination. The ordinary rate of fees in these schools is $3.00 a month. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 7,118 and the average attendance is 5,600. This shows that about three-fourths of the children of school age are under instruction.

84. The expenditure for the calendar year was $57,629.34, which shows a decrease over 1922 of $391.94. There were expenses incurred by the churches in the erection of new school buildings in 1922, totalling over $19,000.

TECHNICAL.

85. There is little technical education undertaken in this Colony. The teaching in this branch is limited to needlework in the girls' schools. It is to be regretted that there are no industrial schools in the Colony.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

86. During the year 1923, forty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest:—

> *Ordinance No.* 12 *of* 1923.—This Ordinance prohibits the sale of intoxicating liquors to any person apparently under the age of 18 years.
>
> *Ordinance No.* 21 *of* 1923.—The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance, 1923, provides for the enforcement in the Colony of Maintenance Orders made in England and Ireland and *vice versa*, and empowers the Governor by Order in Council to extend the Ordinance to any part of His Majesty's Dominions when the Governor is satisfied that reciprocal provisions exist.
>
> *Ordinance No.* 28 *of* 1923.—This Ordinance amends the local Criminal Code, making it compatible with the Colony's adherence to the International Convention for the suppression of the traffic in women and children.
>
> *Ordinance No.* 31 *of* 1923.—This Ordinance provides for the consolidation, preparation and publication of a new and revised edition of the Laws of the Colony.
>
> *Ordinance No.* 36 *of* 1923.—This is a new Income Tax Ordinance, based on the Model Income Tax Ordinance prepared by the Inter-Departmental Committee on the Income Tax of Colonies not possessing responsible Governments, and which Model has been suggested by the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

87. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. An improved and better mail and passenger service by motor vessels was established during the year under contract with subsidy as between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and as between Belize, Stann Creek and Punta Gorda. There is a short railway from the sea-coast going inland, near Stann Creek Town, about 25 miles in length. It taps banana plantations.

88. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine run a steamer via Bermuda, Nassau and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly steamer from Liverpool. These sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London.

89. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

ROADS.

90. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads, the total length of metalled roads outside Belize being only about 30 miles. The difficulty of obtaining material and its cost make road-building very expensive.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

BELIZE BRIDGE.

91. A new swing bridge over the Belize River, connecting the north and south sides of the town has been erected, and was opened for traffic on 24th April, 1923. The work was done under contract by the Jefferson Construction Company, Inc., of New Orleans, La., and the cost, on completion, was $81,702.

HARBOUR WORKS.

92. On the 6th January, 1922, a contract was entered into with the Jefferson Construction Company for certain reclamation and Harbour Works at Fort George. The work was completed in September, 1923, and comprises a sea wall 1,600 lineal feet, built of reinforced concrete piles, the erection of two Customs warehouses of corrugated iron, each 140 feet by 40 feet, construction of 2,250 lineal feet of metalled roadway, the filling of the Fort George lands to a prescribed level. A channel 300 feet wide and 3,400 feet long and 9 feet deep has been dredged.

The total cost of this work according to contract was	$285,000.00
Additional work, extra on contract amounted to	18,567.57
	$303,567.57

Other departmental work undertaken and in contemplation will bring the expenditure to an estimated total of $349,240.00.

These include—

(1) A rubble stone wall, northern side of Fort George.
(2) Filling in adjacent lands.
(3) Erection of a five-ton crane.
(4) Roadways.
(5) Other preliminary and additional work of a minor nature.

NEW PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

93. New Public Offices to replace those destroyed by fire in 1918 were commenced in January, 1923, and completed on 12th April, 1924. The building, constructed under contract by the Jefferson Construction Company, is of reinforced concrete and stands on the site formerly occupied by the old Council Chamber building. The cost, including contractor's fee, was $136,195.19. Furniture and fittings are being added departmentally. The old Court House, destroyed by fire in 1918, is undergoing reconstruction; work is being done departmentally at an estimated cost of $75,100, the expenditure at 31st March, 1924, being $3,435.83. The building lately occupied, since 1918, by the Supreme Court and Post Office has been acquired for the sum of $16,000, and, after necessary repairs, will be utilized to accommodate the District Commissioner of Belize, providing District Court and office; and on the ground floor, the Education Department and the Inland Revenue Branch of the Treasury. On the completion of the erection of new Customs Department offices at Fort George, about to be commenced, the whole programme of providing accommodation for Public Offices in Belize, including a new police station and offices, and a new fire station, will have been carried out from loan funds raised under Ordinance No. 28 of 1921.

XI.—SHIPPING.

94. The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Colony during the year 1923 was as follows:—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	157	274	431
Sailing Vessels	213	168	381
	370	442	812

95. The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 13,027 and of the steamships 256,772.

96. Belize is a port of Registry. Ten sailing vessels, one steamship and four motor boats were registered during the year. The total tonnage of these amounted to 835.

XII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE SERVICES.

POST OFFICE.

97. At the end of the year there were 25 Post Offices established in the Colony.

The total number of postal articles passing through the post during the year was 697,161. As compared with 1922, the most striking feature is the growth of the parcels business with the United States of America. The reduction in cost effected by the British Preferential Tariff has not proved a sufficient offset against the advantages of proximity and regularity of transport possessed by the United States.

98. Mails to and from the Colony were carried almost entirely by the steamers of the United Fruit Company, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and the Harrison Line. A weekly service, not under contract, is maintained by the United Fruit Company's boats between the Colony and the United States of America, the ports of call in the latter country being New Orleans and Mobile. There is also a monthly service from New York by these steamers. The steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine call here via Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica, returning by the same route about every three weeks. Mail communication with the Southern Republics is maintained principally by the steamers of the United Fruit Company.

99. The 2 cents and 50 cents denomination of stamps of the new issue (Nyasaland type) were placed on sale during the year.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

100. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 395 miles of lines with 32 offices.

There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 285 subscribers.

RADIO TELEGRAPHS.

101. During the year 1922 extensive additions and improvements were made to the Radio Telegraph Station at Belize. The installation in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, is a 5 K.W. (Wireless Speciality Apparatus) 500 cycle quenched spark. The normal wave length of the station is 1,500 metres. A small aerial was, however, erected during 1922 to allow transmission on the 600 metre wave. In addition, a 25 K.W. Admiralty set was

installed, which, although for the special purpose of direct traffic with Jamaica, is not at present in use owing to the closing down of the Admiralty station in that Colony.

XIII.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

102. No modern handbook of the Colony exists, but a handbook for the current year is in course of preparation.

103. There is an Annual Report on Trade by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published weekly by the Government Printing Office.

E. O. B. Barrow,
Senior Clerk, C.S.O.,
for Colonial Secretary.

30th July, 1924.

COLONIAL REPORTS, Etc.

The following recent reports, etc., relating to His Majesty's Colonial Possessions have been issued, and may be obtained from the sources indicated on the title page:—

ANNUAL.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Year.*
1182	Uganda	1922
1183	Federated Malay States	,,
1184	Unfederated Malay States	,,
1185	State of Brunei	,,
1186	Straits Settlements	,,
1187	Falkland Islands	,,
1188	Kenya Colony and Protectorate	,,
1189	British Solomon Islands Protectorate	1922–1923
1190	Jamaica	1922
1191	Seychelles	,,
1192	Bahamas	1922–1923
1193	Somaliland	1922
1194	Northern Territories of the Gold Coast	1922–1923
1195	Leeward Islands	,,
1196	Turks and Caicos Islands	1922
1197	Nigeria	1923
1198	Weihaiwei	,,
1199	Gilbert and Ellice Islands	1922–1923
1200	Ashanti	,,
1201	Gambia	1923
1202	Bahamas	1923–1924
1203	Hongkong	1922
1204	Nyasaland	1923
1205	Cayman Islands	1922
1206	Cyprus	1923
1207	Gold Coast	1922–1923
1208	Trinidad and Tobago	1923
1209	Zanzibar Protectorate	,,
1210	Bechuanaland Protectorate	1923–1924
1211	Swaziland	1923
1212	Basutoland	,,
1213	Turks and Caicos Islands	,,
1214	Fiji	,,

MISCELLANEOUS.

No.	*Colony, etc.*	*Subject.*
83	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1910.
84	West Indies	Preservation of Ancient Monuments, etc.
85	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1911.
86	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1912.
87	Ceylon	Mineral Survey.
88	Imperial Institute	Oilseeds, Oils, etc.
89	Southern Nigeria	Mineral Survey, 1913.
90	St. Vincent	Roads and Land Settlement.
91	East Africa Protectorate	Geology and Geography of the northern part of the Protectorate.
92	Colonies—General	Fishes of the Colonies.
93	Pitcairn Island	Report on a visit to the Island by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific.

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COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1277.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1924.

(For Reports for 1922 and 1923 see Nos. 1181 and 1215
respectively, price 9d. each.)

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1925.
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No. 1277.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1924.

WITH FINANCIAL INFORMATION UP TO 31st MARCH, 1925.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and the Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands called cayes off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The town of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between 1 and 4 miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 ft. of water can approach the port. At the town of Stann Creek there is a

railway pier alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20ft. can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek District. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 ft. and 18 ft. respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 ft. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christain era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidently through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded, in perpetuity to Great Britain, by Treaty with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies,

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or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council contains five official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1899, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition referred to as " The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At present there are two unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts : Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name ; the Corozal District ; the Orange Walk District ; the Cayo District ; the Stann Creek District ; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, comprising the extreme south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed

by law, and is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the Local nominated District Boards.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws 1924 there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I.—General.

15. The Governor, Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence on the 15th September, 1924, and was absent during the remaining portion of the year. During his absence the Government was administered by the Honourable C. D. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

16. In June, 1924, a reply was received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies regarding the Report of the Commission appointed in 1923 to report on certain questions relating to the proposed change in the political constitution of the Colony. Two draft Bills prepared by this Government, one amending the existing Constitution, and the other regulating the procedure at elections of members of the Legislative Council, were approved, and His Excellency the Governor was instructed to place them before the Council for consideration. After allowing time for the expression of public opinion regarding the measure, the Council met on the 14th July, 1924, when the Bills, *inter alia*, were considered. The Unofficial Members of the Council were unwilling to adopt Clause 6 of the Bill amending the existing constitution, conferring on the Governor the power of putting into effect measures which he and the Secretary of State consider necessary in the interest of public order, public faith or other first essentials of good government, including the responsibility of the Colony as a component part of the Empire.

They were, however, prepared to approve the Clause provided that it was made inapplicable to any Bill or any resolution or vote dealing with the raising of taxes or duties or any financial measure whatsoever.

In view of the attitude of the majority of the Unofficial Members the further consideration of the Bills was deferred and the matter was referred back to the Secretary of State for his further instructions. At the end of the year under review no reply had been received.

17. During the year a concession to explore ancient monuments and mounds on certain Crown Lands, was granted to Lady Richmond Brown, Dr. T. Gann and Mr. F. A. Mitchell-Hedges. The party directed their attention to the Maya ruins near San Pedro de Columbia in the Toledo District which they named "Lubaantun," which, in Maya, means "the place of fallen stones." Although the existence of these ruins has been known for many years, and although they have been visited from time to time by European officials and others no exploration work was carried out prior to this. A number of artifacts, depicting the Maya civilization of the period, were discovered and these have been sent to the British Museum for classification. It is probable that a representative of that Institution will visit the Colony in the near future, in connection with the discoveries.

18. There was an improvement in trade during the year under review. Markets for mahogany and chicle were favourable, though the dry season and consequent difficulties of transport on the rivers adversely affected the output of the former product; the dry weather also interfered seriously with the tapping of sapodilla for "chicle," causing a material drop in domestic production. There has been, recently, a slight revival in the market for logwood.

19. The number of labourers engaged under time agreement was more by 480 than in 1923.

The distribution was as follows :—

District.	Mahogany.	Agriculture.	Other.	Total.
Toledo ...	169	24	—	193
Cayo ...	35	—	—	35
Belize ...	1633	98	97	1828
Corozal ...	38	159	2	199
Stann Creek	140	3	26	169
Orange Walk	78	31	—	109
Total ...	2093	315	125	2,533

20. It is greatly to be regretted that a general scheme for the formation of an Agricultural Department in the Colony to assist, educate and direct persons entering into the pursuit of agriculture, which had reached an advanced stage, had to be abandoned on account of the inability of General Revenue to meet the initial outlay and cost of maintenance of such a Department. Everything would seem to point to the necessity for such a Department

in the very near future, as there is little doubt that the Colony will have to depend to some extent in the future on its agricultural resources, which only await the advent of capital and the introduction into the Colony of agricultural labour until such time as her woodcutters (who, in that capacity, are second to none in the world) shall have turned their attention to agriculture. It is hoped, however, that during the coming year some commencement will be made in this direction. An Agricultural School is being established in the Stann Creek Valley, and in conjunction with that Institution it is proposed to foster and develop the promising agricultural possibilities of the Colony.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION.

21. No record is kept of the gains and losses to the Colony occasioned by immigration and emigration. Arrivals in, and departures from, appear more or less to counterbalance, and an estimate over a period of years supports this view.

Most of the emigration, however, has been to the neighbouring Central American Republics, by men in search of work, accompanied in many instances by their wives and families.

There has been no perceptible immigration into the Colony either from the West Indian Colonies or from the Central American Republics.

II.—Public Health, Vital Statistics and Climate.

22. The general health of the Colony, during the year under review, was, on the whole good.

23. During November, 1924, three cases of suspected Yellow Fever, one of which proved fatal, occurred at Stann Creek. The necessary measures were taken immediately to safeguard the capital and other districts and the area was placed under quarantine. At the request of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York, the autopsy tissues of the fatal case were forwarded to them for examination. As a result of expert diagnosis the Board were of opinion that the evidence in this case did not seem to be conclusive either for or against Yellow Fever. There can be no doubt that the policy adopted of placing the Colony in quarantine, however detrimental it may have been to its interests, was the correct course. It should be possible with an efficient Medical Staff and competent Sanitary Department, with which the Colony is now equipped, to devise some scheme by which under careful observation suspected cases of Yellow Fever could be reported and placed under observation without taking the drastic steps usually adopted which have the result of seriously dislocating the business and trade of the Colony —perhaps quite unnecessarily. This question is under consideration and the Rockefeller Foundation is being consulted.

PREVALENT DISEASES.

24. *Enteric Fever.*—The occurrence of the Enteric Group of diseases in this Colony is very rare. Dr. Newham of the London School of Tropical Medicine, in his report on his visit to this Colony states that he saw a very suspicious case in a man who had lived in Belize for many years. The Belize Hospital returns show four cases and one death during 1924. It is probable that mild cases occur in the remote settlements.

25. *Dysentery.*—There were thirty-three deaths from Dysentery during the year. In the Belize Hospital sixteen cases of amœbic dysentery and ten cases of bacillary dysentery were treated. There was a good deal of dysentery of a bacillary type in the town of Belize during the months of September, October and November. House-flies were not prevalent in any part of the town during the period, and, in fact, house-flies are remarkably few in Belize at any time of the year. The rainfall was heavy at the time these cases were occurring and many parts of the town were swampy, and the roadside drains, where such exist, were constantly full of water.

26. *Malaria.*—Thirty deaths from Malaria were certified by Medical Practitioners in 1924. Among the uncertified deaths two hundred and eighty were ascribed to "fever" and there is little doubt that a large majority of these was due to malaria. There was an unusual amount of deaths from malaria, mostly among young children, in the Indian villages of San Antonio, San Pedro de Columbia and Aguacate in the Toledo District during the months of July, August and September.

The history of these cases in Toledo was very closely investigated by Dr. E. I. Vaughan of the Rockefeller Foundation who came to the Colony in connection with the outbreak of Yellow Fever in Stann Creek in November. His report endorsed the opinion of the Principal Medical Officer that these cases were undoubtedly malaria.

27. *Tuberculosis.*—Pulmonary Tuberculosis is prevalent. Other forms of tuberculosis are not common. Tuberculosis among cattle has never been accurately investigated, but it does not, it is believed, occur very frequently. Very little fresh milk is consumed in the Colony; in Belize tinned milk is universally used. Forty-eight cases of all forms of tuberculosis were treated in the Belize Hospital during the year, and of these twenty-two died. The vital statistics show thirty-nine deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, all certified by Medical Practitioners. Among the uncertified deaths at least fifty were due to this malady.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

28. *Anti-Mosquito* work continued throughout the year, although on a larger scale than hitherto. Within the boundaries of the towns possible breeding places of mosquitos are suitably

treated, the methods employed varying with the local conditions. Whenever possible, swamps were connected by channels to the river or one of the canals, in order to admit a species of small fish which is the natural enemy of the mosquito larvæ. This method is proving effective, and is economical, although unfortunately it cannot be adapted to all localities. Experiments with diluted solutions of Cresol were undertaken towards the end of the year with the intention of finding out comparative costs of this larvicide as compared with Crude Oil. The practice of using dry saw-dust soaked with a mixture of Crude and Kerosene Oil was introduced and has proved to be an economical method, as the oil diffuses slowly and is not so rapidly dissipated by heavy rain or by wind.

WATER SUPPLY.

29. In December, 1924, Mr. H. Howard Humphreys, Consulting Engineer to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on Water and Sanitary Works, visited the Colony to advise on the question of a water supply and a drainage scheme for the town of Belize.

Certain experiments were conducted and analyses of water, obtained in and around Belize, were carried out. His report, which should be received shortly, is awaited with interest.

VITAL STATISTICS.

30. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1924, was 47,132, as follows :—

Males	23,324
Females	23,808

31. The number of births registered during the year was 1,809 and the number of deaths 1,204.

32. The number of marriages registered in 1924 was 391, the rate being 8·30 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 7·73 for 1923. Of the 1,809 births, 868 were males and 941 were females. The birth-rate works out at 38·38 per 1,000 of the estimated population as against 37·91 per 1,000 during 1923.

33. Of the 1,204 deaths, 622 were males and 582 were females. This shows a total increase of 250 deaths as compared with the previous year. The 1,204 deaths correspond to a rate of 25·54 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 20·55 for the year 1923.

34. There was an increase in the number of infant deaths. The index of 133 out of each 1,000 births in 1923 increased to 156 in 1924. As compared with 1922 there was an improvement at the rate of 2·5 per cent.

35. The increase in 1922 was due directly or indirectly to the prevalence of whooping cough in the Colony in the earlier part of the year.

36. The principal causes of death during 1924, in order of degree, were from disease of the digestive system, followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the circulatory system. There were 30 deaths from malaria, 33 from influenza, 39 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 42 from enteritis during the year.

CLIMATE.

37. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

38. The highest rainfall registered in 1924 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 160·90 inches, and 205 days on which rain fell. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 30·40 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 59 inches.

39. The hottest days for the year 1924 were, the 23rd August, and 4th September, on which the thermometer registered 91·5°F. and the coldest day the 18th November, when it registered 57. The maximum wind velocity was 36 miles per hour on the following dates:—2nd January, 19th June, 22nd and 25th July, 13th and 15th August, 11th October, 7th and 30th November, 4th December. The maximum precipitation was on the 17th October, and was 2·23 inches in 24 consecutive hours.

III.—Financial.

REVENUE.

40. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1925, amounted to $938,969·43, being $154,179·72 less than the revenue of the preceding year.

EXPENDITURE.

41. The expenditure for the financial year 1924–25 was estimated at $942,151·00, but the amount actually spent was $920,998·28, which shows a decrease of $21,152·72 as compared with the Estimates for the year, and is less than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by $282,221·59.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

42. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1925, were $1,288,516·29, and the liabilities $1,010,020·47, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $278,495·82. Assets consist mainly of advances to local bodies. The main liability is the amount due to the Crown Agents. The available cash balances total $133,393·18, including a sum of $100,000 available under Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

CURRENCY.

43. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of tens, fives, twos and one dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1925, the value of currency notes in circulation was $224,544, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of $89,607 in gold, and $134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

44. The interest on investments was $7,753·53, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

45. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1925, was :—

Silver	$190,159·75
Nickel Bronze	5,499·90
Bronze	6,150·39

PUBLIC DEBT.

46. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at $745,734, as compared with $1,132,094 in 1924–25. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $82,334·98 market value, as compared with $71,702·82 in the previous year. Of the loan of $1,000,000, authorised by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws 1924 to meet the cost of certain public works and improvements, a sum of $177,600 was raised bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of $518,600 was advanced by the Crown Agents, bearing interest at current bank rate. A Loan of $250,000 has been authorised under authority of this Chapter for Forest development and improvement. This sum is controlled by the Forest Trust.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

47. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-Department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of $167,353·61 to the credit of 1,291 depositors on 31st March, 1925, against $171,421·00 to the credit of 1,253 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1924, was $150,000 and the interest on investments was $6,360·41. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1924–25 was $4,926·46.

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

48. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $7,232,025, or $1,547 less than the trade of the previous year. Imports decreased by $142,407 while Exports increased by $140,860. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

IMPORTS.

49. The total value of imports of merchandise during 1924 was $3,894,281, which was less than the total imports in 1923 by $142,407.

50. The following table shows the imports under the main heads of classification :—

	1923.	*1924.*
Food, drink and tobacco	$1,674,287	$1,451,149
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	755,913	647,939
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ...	1,598,659	1,775,651
Miscellaneous and unclassified	7,829	19,347
Bullion and Specie ...	—	195
	$4,036,688	$3,894,281

51. The following table shows whence imports are received :—

	Value.	*Percentage.*
United States of America ...	$1,935,198	49·6
United Kingdom	726,375	18·5
Mexico	373,874	9·6
Canada	430,248	11·4
Guatemala	154,587	3·9
Other British Possessions ...	68,600	1·8
Other Countries	205,399	5·2
	$3,894,281	100·0

52. The principal differences in the percentages in comparison with the previous year are as follows :—

> United States of America, 49·6 as against 46·0 in 1923, United Kingdom, 18·5 as against 22·7, Canada 11·4 as against 8·86, Mexico 9·6 as against 12·1.

Trade with Canada continues to improve and has steadily increased since its inception in 1921. The value of the Imports in 1924 was $430,248 as against $357,788 in 1923, an increase of $72,460 or 20%. The totals in 1921 and 1922 were $143,700 and $156,750 respectively. This increase is more pronounced if the value of whisky imported is deducted. The total of this item was $133,987 in 1923 and $57,278, or $76,707 less, in 1924.

The gradual increase in trade due to the subsidized steamers of the Canadian Mercantile Marine calling at Belize once every three weeks, has become an important factor in the trade of the Colony. It is hoped that this trade under preferential agreement will continue to increase.

EXPORTS.

53. The total value of exports of merchandise was $3,337,744 as against $3,196,884 in 1923, an increase of $140,860.

The following table shows the exports under the main heads of classification :—

	1923.	*1924.*
Food, drink and tobacco	$696,558	$525,303
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured	2,374,230	2,705,588
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	115,984	92,619
Miscellaneous and unclassified	3,707	2,261
Bullion and Specie ...	6,405	11,973
	$3,196,884	$3,337,744

54. Mahogany and chicle exports continue as heretofore to be the mainstay of the Colony. An increasing demand for mahogany created an active market resulting in competition due probably to exhaustion of war stocks between local contracting and purchasing companies. The increase in prices gave a distinct impetus to the export of mahogany. Due to internal trouble in Mexico, which involved a cessation of operations, the re-exports of mahogany (cut in Mexico and shipped from the Colony) were less by 1,030,247 superficial feet in quantity and $123,815 in value than in 1923. The exports of British Honduras mahogany, however, more than covered this deficit being in excess of the totals for 1923 by 3,920,906 superficial feet in quantity and $342,217 in value.

The exports of chicle bled in the Colony were 57,007 lb. less than the total for the previous year, but the re-exports of chicle bled in Guatemala and Mexico were 313,665 lb. more than in 1923. The total exports were 256,658 in quantity and $160,558 in value in excess of the totals for 1923.

55. The following table shows the direction of exports during 1924 :—

	Value.	Percentage.
United States of America ...	$2,642,033	79·0
United Kingdom	259,345	7·6
Other British Possessions ...	200,829	6·0
Other Countries	235,537	7·4
	$3,337,744	100·0

56. The value of exports to Canada during 1924 totalled $16,864, as against $18,339 in 1923.

FORESTRY.

57. The Forestry Department is making steady progress towards the establishment of a sound forest policy, and the reafforestation of Crown and private lands is proceeding satisfactorily. Much of the large area of scrub-land in this Colony is the result of the wasteful deforestation by fire which has been going on for centuries.

AGRICULTURE.

58. Agricultural land is easily obtainable either from the Crown at from $2·00 to $4·00 an acre, or from private owners at about $5·00 to $6·00 an acre. The cost of survey is about $1·50 an acre. The land tax is very light, being only 1½ cents an acre, except near the Stann Creek Railway, where the tax is 10 cents an acre. All tropical produce grows in abundance. For the capitalist who thinks of agricultural investments no soil in the world is more suitable. There is also excellent pasturage for cattle-raising. The Great Southern Pine Ridge alone is capable of supporting thousands of head of cattle.

Panama disease still, unfortunately, continues to reduce the export of bananas from the Stann Creek Valley, but indications are not wanting that bananas grown on limestone formation are not subject to this disease, due it is thought to this soil being inhospitable to its germs.

INDUSTRY.

59. There are no finer sugar lands in the West Indies than those in the northern and southern portions of the Colony. Sugar is manufactured in these Districts, but only for local consumption. Modern machinery and scientific cultivation are only required to establish a promising sugar industry. The output was about 3,500 barrels in the Corozal District, 414 barrels in the Orange Walk, and about 3,000 barrels in Toledo. Rum is made as a by-product of the sugar industry, the quantity made during the year being about 47,000 proof gallons.

FISHING.

60. There was no development during the year of the sponge industry. The principal varieties found in the Colony are:—cotton grass, glove, common grass, wool and soft velvet. The first is found on the shoals and in the neighbourhood of the northern cayes in a fathom of water, and is very plentiful. The glove variety grows to a large size, usually about 2 feet in diameter. The soft velvet and wool are of special interest. Mr. Crawshay, the Research Officer, investigating the sponge fishery in the British West Indies, has reported concerning specimens of the above that on examination they proved to be similar to the superior grades occurring in the Bahamas.

61. The sea around the cayes teems with excellent eating fish, the best known being snapper, grooper, kingfish, Spanish mackerel. Turtle, both logger-head and hawk's bill, are captured, the latter mainly for the sake of the shell, a fair amount of which is exported. Green turtle are fairly plentiful and are in great request as food. Tarpon fishing is indulged in as a sport.

V.—Progress in the Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

62. In November, 1921, an extremely useful and interesting report on the forests of the Colony, with suggestions for a far-reaching forest policy, was made by Mr. C. Hummel. As an outcome of this report, a Forest Department was established in April, 1922, when Mr. Hummel was appointed Conservator of Forests. A Forest Trust was established under Chapter 70 of the Consolidated Laws 1924, the object being the development and maintenance of the Crown forests of the Colony, and to advise and assist private owners of forest lands in the development and improvement of their property. The Trust controls the administration of funds and a Loan of $250,000 for forestry development. The Forestry Department consists of a Conservator of Forests and five Assistant Conservators, with Forest Rangers and clerical staff. The proposal is that the expenditure from Loan funds should be extended over a period of thirty years, the cost of the Department being, to a large extent, borne by contributions from General Revenue based on forest revenue.

The Silk Grass or "Arghan fibre" plant grows plentifully in certain localities of the Colony. As undergrowth, it produces no deleterious effects upon the overwood and can be preserved readily in the Crown forests. Though growing wild all over the Colony, it is not everywhere that silk grass is found in quantities sufficient for economic exploitation. Frequently it is found in patches and strips near rivers, and with some simple silvicultural aid, and artificial interplanting between natural groups, extensive silk grass areas could be fully stocked at a low cost. A study of the natural reproduction and rate of growth of this plant is being made at the Botanic Station, Belize. So far, however, experiments in devising suitable machinery for treating this valuable fibre have not met with success, but remunerative results await anyone who can overcome this difficulty.

As indicated above, the market for mahogany continues to improve, resulting in an increased output. Adverse weather conditions reduced the output of chicle. The bleeding of wild chicle is declining owing to exhaustion of the forests consequent upon destructive methods of tapping. A promising commencement, however, has been made under the direction of the Forestry Department in the reafforestation of sapodilla forests. It is hoped under such scientific methods to produce plantation chicle. The industry gives promise of being of considerable value to the Colony.

A saw-mill, with an annual capacity of five million feet, is producing pine lumber, for which there is a steady market, and possible markets in the neighbouring West Indian islands and Central American republics.

Experiments in making veneers from some of the secondary timbers found in considerable quantities in the forests of the Colony, are promising, and indications are not wanting that a steady and increasing demand for these timbers will develop.

These timbers include sapodilla, pine, santa maria, yemery, nargusta, balsa wood, Honduras walnut. A piece of sapodilla taken from an old Maya Indian Temple over 1,200 years old, and a sapodilla post from the old Belize Bridge, illustrate strikingly the durability of this wood. Full information concerning the woods of the Colony is contained in a report by the late Conservator of Forests, Mr. C. Hummel, and may be obtained from the Conservator of Forests, Belize, or the Colonial Secretary.

63. Citrus Fruit grows luxuriantly in many parts of the Colony.

64. A useful and interesting Geography of the Colony of British Honduras, by Mr. A. B. Dillon, Inspector of Schools, was published in 1923. It is primarily intended for use in the elementary schools, and supersedes a previous geography, published in 1891 by the then Inspector of Schools.

VI.—Banks and Banking Facilities.

65. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking institution in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under Head II. —Financial.

VII.—Education.

66. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational Church schools, which has proved so far to be best suited to the needs of the Colony. Rules made by the Board of Education were amended in 1923 effecting a change in the method of making grants-in-aid to denominational schools.

The Compulsory Attendance Law of 1915 has not yet for various reasons been applied to all parts of the Colony. The maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. Grants-in-aid from General Revenue are based on the monthly average attendances of children between the ages of five and sixteen years. Grants-in-aid of the salary of teachers are also made.

67. The total grants-in-aid in 1924 amounted to $58,190·56 which included special increases to teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory, and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was $1,718. The number of aided schools in operation in 1924 was 66 as against 65 in 1923. In Belize District there are 22, in Corozal District 12, in Orange Walk District 8, in Cayo District 6, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo 10.

68. The total number of pupils on the rolls in aided schools was 6,827; of these 3,532 were boys and 3,275 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,250, of which 2,758 were boys and 2,492 girls.

69. During the year there were employed 120 certificated teachers and 50 pupil-teachers. The former are obtained from the pupil-teachers' class, a method which, in the absence of any provision for normal training, is far from satisfactory. There were also unfortunately a number of teachers without certificates.

70. There are a few private elementary schools in the Colony, which are unaided. These have a total of about 500 pupils on the rolls with an average attendance of about 350.

The competitive exhibition of school work, which was first held in 1892, and continued annually till 1897, when it was abandoned for want of funds, was reinstituted during the year. It established the educational value of such competitions.

SECONDARY.

71. Secondary education continued to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few

hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year 1924 was $735. These schools have a total roll of about 476, and the average attendance is 425, but only about one half of these receive secondary education. In December, 35 pupils were presented for the Cambridge Examinations, 19 for the Preliminary, 14 for the Junior, and 2 for the School Certificate. The successes were as follows :—15 pupils passed the Preliminary and 3 the Junior Examination. The ordinary rate of fees in these schools is $3·00 a month. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 7,803, and the average attendance is 6,025. This shows that about three-fourths of the children of school age are under instruction.

72. The expenditure for the year was $70,747·81, which shows an increase over 1923 of $13,118·47. There were expenses incurred by the churches in the erection of new school buildings in 1924, approximately a sum of $5,233. Based on the daily average of attendances the cost per head worked out at $12·71; of which sum $12·33 was borne by General Revenue.

TECHNICAL.

73. There is little technical education or vocational training undertaken in the Colony. Needlework, however, forms part of the curriculum in the girls' schools. The establishment of an Agricultural School for boys will fill a long-felt want.

VIII.—Legislation.

74. During the year 1924, fifteen Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest :—

Ordinance No. 1 of 1924.—An Ordinance to prevent the wholesale and indiscriminate slaughter of Crawfish (*Palinurus Americanus*).

These are being canned locally, and without protection the supply might be seriously endangered.

Ordinance No. 6 of 1924.—An Ordinance to provide for the issue, by the Governor in Council, of permits to explore ancient ruins and monuments or mounds on Crown lands, and to search for and remove any relics found thereon.

IX.—Communications.

75. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by

motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

76. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about 15 days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders & Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

77. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

ROADS.

78. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony road construction is difficult and expensive.

X.—Public Works.

79. The reconstruction of the Court House building was undertaken during the year. The building should be completed early in 1925 at a cost of $61,866·08.

New Customs offices at Fort George were also built during the year. These offices were erected at a cost of $8,130·49.

80. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost $18,300.

The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled $38,159.

During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled $135,432.

XI.—Shipping.

81. The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Colony during the year 1924 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships ...	152	229	381
Sailing vessels	117	194	311
	269	423	692

82. The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 18,900, and of the steamships 286,450.

83. Belize is a port of registry. Four sailing vessels and seven motor boats were registered during the year. The total tonnage of these amounted to 173.

XII.—Postal, Telegraph & Telephone Services.

POST OFFICE.

84. At the end of the year there were 25 Post Offices established in the Colony.

There has been an appreciable increase in the parcel post C.O.D. business with Great Britain. An agreement was concluded in the month of September with the General Post Office, London, whereby parcels from Great Britain are forwarded via Jamaica by ships of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and are received here once every three weeks. This is a great improvement over the former service which was approximately once in six weeks.

85. Mails to and from the Colony were carried almost entirely by the steamers of the United Fruit Company, the Canadian Government Merchant Marine, Limited, and the Harrison Line. A weekly service, not under contract, is maintained by the United Fruit Company's vessels between the Colony and the ports of New Orleans and Mobile alternately. This Company also maintains a monthly service from New York and communication with the Central American republics.

The total number of postal articles dealt with in the internal mails during the year was 176,888, while the estimated number dealt with in the foreign mails was 549,092. As compared with 1923, the most striking feature is the growth of the parcels business with the United States of America. The reduction in cost effected by the British Preferential Tariff has not proved a sufficient offset against the advantages of proximity and regularity of transport possessed by the United States.

TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

86. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 925 miles of lines with 32 offices.

There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 335 subscribers.

RADIO TELEGRAPHS.

87. During the year 1922 extensive additions and improvements were made in the Radio Telegraph Station at Belize. The installation in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, is a 5 k.w. (Wireless Speciality Apparatus) 500 cycle quenched spark. The normal wave length of the station is 1,500 metres. A small aerial was, however, erected during 1922 to allow transmission on the 600 metre wave. In addition, a 25 k.w. Admiralty set was installed, which, although for the special purpose of direct traffic with Jamaica, is not at present in use owing to the closing down of the Admiralty station in that Colony.

An " urgent " and a " deferred " service of wireless messages for abroad was inaugurated with effect from 1st January, 1924.

With effect from 1st September, 1923, a daily service for communicating with ships was inaugurated at the Belize Wireless Station. The schedule is as follows :—

7.30 a.m.	to	8.30 a.m.	local time.
12.00 noon	,,	1.00 p.m.	,, ,,
7.00 p.m.	,,	8.00 p.m.	,, ,,

XIII.—Official Publications.

88. A handbook was prepared by Messrs. M. S. Metzgen and H. E. C. Cain, and was published by the West India Committee.

89. There is an Annual Report on Trade by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published weekly by the Government printing office.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Colonial Secretary.

23rd September, 1925.

COLONIAL REPORTS—ANNUAL.

No. 1308.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1925.

(For Reports for 1923 and 1924 see Nos. 1215 and 1277 respectively, price 9d. each.)

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No. 1308.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1925.

WITH FINANCIAL INFORMATION UP TO 31st MARCH, 1926.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands called cayes off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The town of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 ft. of water can approach the Port. At the town of Stann Creek there is a

railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20ft. can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek District. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 ft. and 18 ft. respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 ft. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded, in perpetuity to Great Britain, by Treaty with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies,

or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having " increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated " principally by slaves " at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers from 1638 to 1786 managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the settlement which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1889, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this Report there were three unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed

by law; and is also ex officio Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the Local nominated District Boards.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws 1924 there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

Police.

15. Prior to 1888 for many years a detachment of troops were stationed in the Colony for its defence, at the same time a small Civil Police Force was in existence.

16. In 1888, the British Honduras Constabulary, a semi-military body, commanded by officers seconded from British Regiments, came into existence. In 1894 a Civil Police Force was formed again and took over the Belize, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts from the Constabulary, which was reduced in strength and left in charge of the frontier districts of Corozal, Orange Walk and Cayo.

17. In 1902 the Constabulary Force was abolished and the whole Colony taken over by the Police Force under the able administration of Major Barnes, an experienced officer from the Demerara Constabulary. Many of the members of the disbanded Constabulary rejoined the Police Force.

18. In 1920, after the riots, the Police Force was reorganized, increased in strength and placed on a semi-military basis. The Territorial Force at this time had become defunct.

19. The strength of the present Force is two officers and 136 rank and file, who are distributed as follows :—

Belize	75	Belize District	4
Stann Creek ...	7	Stann Creek District ...	3
Punta Gorda	5	Toledo District	1
Corozal ...	8	Corozal District	4
Orange Walk...	9	Orange Walk District ...	9
Cayo	7	Cayo District	6
	111		27
	27		
Total ...	138		

20. The Force is armed with modern Lee-Enfield rifles and is trained in musketry and squad drill.

21. The work performed by the Force is varied. In Belize, in addition to ordinary street work, criminal investigation and Court duties, certain men are detailed to perform Harbour Police duties, as orderlies, and as Relieving Officer; whilst, in the country districts, in addition to police work, some act as telephone operators, District Postmasters, vaccinators, shorelight keepers, Customs officers, etc.

22. The pay of constables is at present from $600·00-$720·00 per annum, and non-commissioned officers receive salaries varying from $720·00 to $1140·00 per annum. There are also certain allowances granted to men undertaking duties not of a strictly Police nature.

23. Roughly, about half the Force are natives of the Colony, the remainder being mainly Jamaicans and Barbadians, with a sprinkling from other West Indian Colonies.

24. Constables are enlisted for two yearly periods, and it is in the discretion of the Superintendent whether they are re-engaged. The Superintendent, in addition to other forms of punishment, has the power to suspend any non-commissioned officer or man for any dereliction of duty, and on his recommendation they can be summarily dismissed by the Governor.

25. Fines imposed on non-commissioned officers and men, certain moieties of fines in court, etc., are paid into a Police Reward Fund, which is used for granting of rewards and for any purpose that is for the benefit of the Force.

I.—General.

26. In the early part of the year Sir Eyre Hutson, K.C.M.G., was appointed Governor of Fiji and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, and Major J. A. Burdon, C.M.G., was appointed to succeed him as Governor of the Colony. Major Burdon arrived in the Colony on the 13th April, 1925, and assumed office next day.

27. The question of the proposed change in the political constitution of the Colony, which had been under consideration for over a year, was finally disposed by the Secretary of State intimating that he deemed the present time not ripe for introducing modifications in the constitution of the Colony, in view of the unwillingness of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council to accept a clause conferring upon the Governor the power of putting into effect measures which he and the Secretary of State consider necessary in the interest of public order, public faith or other first essentials of good government, including the responsibility of the Colony as a component part of the Empire.

28. During 1924 a concession to explore ancient monuments and mounds on certain Crown Lands was granted to Lady Richmond Brown, Dr. T. Gann and Mr. F. A. Mitchell-Hedges. The party directed their attention to the Maya ruins near San Pedro de Colombia in the Toledo District, which they named "Lubaantun," which, in Maya, means "the place of fallen stones." Although the existence of these ruins has been known for many years, and although they have been visited from time to time by European officials and others, no exploration work was carried out prior to this. A number of artifacts, depicting the Maya civilization of the period, were discovered, and these have been sent to the British Museum for classification. A representative of that Institution is expected to visit the Colony early in 1926 to continue the exploration of these ruins.

29. Trade again showed an improvement. The markets for mahogany and chicle continued favourable. A heavy rainy season facilitated the floating of mahogany logs down the rivers, and many contractors were able to "get out" logs which had been stranded at the head waters of rivers and creeks, in some instances for five years. Good rains also increased the production of chicle, as the sapodilla tree gives larger quantities of latex in wet than in dry seasons. Experiments are being made to ascertain whether the latex of an inferior variety of sapodilla has any market value. This latex has been used in the past to adulterate the best quality chicle. It is exported under the distinctive name of "Crown Gum." There was little change in the market for logwood.

II.—Public Health, Vital Statistics and Climate.

30. The general health of the Colony during the year 1925 was, as in the previous year, on the whole good.

PREVALENT DISEASES.

31. There was a diminution in the deaths from dysentery as compared to 1924, from 33 to 23. An outbreak of dysentery in the Lunatic Asylum, in which 26 cases were treated and 8 deaths occurred, tends to increase the number which is shown above, otherwise deaths from dysentery would have been decidedly smaller.

32. *Malaria*, while being prevalent, was of a mild type, there being only 29 deaths certified by medical practitioners due to this cause.

33. *Pulmonary tuberculosis* seems to be on the increase both in the town of Belize and in the Districts. The total number of deaths certified as being due to tuberculosis for the year was 50, whereas the combined deaths due to malaria and dysentery only

equals this figure. Owing to the conditions under which people have to live in the town, and the difficulty in instructing them in sanitation and cleanliness, it is not surprising that tuberculosis, now that it has got a hold on the people, is inclined to spread.

34. *Rabies.*—Symptoms of hydrophobia were shown by dogs in the town of Belize in April, but it was not until June that a fatal case of rabies occurred. The total number of deaths was four. A muzzling order was introduced and the shooting of unmuzzled dogs by the police within certain hours had the desired result of exterminating all stray dogs and checking the spread of the disease. Anti-rabies vaccine has been used with success.

35. *Water supply.*—Mr. H. Howard Humphreys, Consulting Engineer to the Crown Agents for the Colonies on Water and Sanitary Works, visited the Colony in December, 1924, to advise on the question of a water supply and a drainage scheme for the town of Belize. His report was received in the Colony in September, 1925, and is receiving consideration by the Government.

VITAL STATISTICS.

36. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1925, was 47,893, as follows :—

Males	23,683
Females	24,210

37. The number of births registered during the year was 1,785 and the number of deaths 1,024.

38. The number of marriages registered in 1925 was 405, the rate being 8·46 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 8·30 for 1924. Of the 1,785 births, 899 were males and 886 were females. The birth-rate works out at 37·27 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 38·38 per 1,000 during 1924.

39. Of the 1,024 deaths, 540 were males and 484 were females. This shows a total decrease of 180 deaths as compared with the previous year. The 1,024 deaths correspond to a rate of 21·38 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 25·54 for the year 1924.

40. There was a decrease in the number of infant deaths. The index of 156 out of each 1,000 births in 1924 decreased to 112 in 1925.

41. The principal causes of death during 1925, in order of degree, were from disease of the digestive system, followed by those of the circulatory system, and then by those classified under the respiratory system. There were 29 deaths from malaria, 6 from influenza, 50 from pulmonary tuberculosis and 21 from enteritis during the year.

CLIMATE.

42. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

43. The highest rainfall registered in 1925 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 207·68 inches, and 221 days on which rain fell. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 34·12 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 86·01 inches.

44. The hottest day for the year 1925, was the 25th May, on which the thermometer registered 91·5°F, and the coldest day the 24th November, when it registered 59·5°F.

45. The maximum wind velocity was 48 miles per hour on the 2nd June. The maximum precipitation was on the 20th September when 8·20 inches was registered in 24 consecutive hours.

III.—Financial.

REVENUE.

46. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1926, amounted to $996,415·62, being $57,446·19 more than the revenue of the preceding year.

EXPENDITURE.

47. The expenditure for the financial year 1925–26 was estimated at $1,022,277·00, but the amount actually spent was $970,449·26, which shows a decrease of $51,827·74 as compared with the Estimates for the year, and is more than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by $49,450·98.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

48. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1926, were $1,376,661·02, and the liabilities $1,072,198·84, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $304,462·18. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed Loan. The main liability is the amount due to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The available cash balances total $121,227·30, including a sum of $100,000 available under Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

CURRENCY.

49. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also

a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is paper currency of ten, five and two dollars, and one dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1926, the value of currency notes in circulation was $429,846, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of $318,634 in gold and $134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

50. The interest on investments was $7,753·53, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

51. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1926, was :—

	$
Silver	190,159·75
Nickel bronze	5,499·90
Bronze	6,150·39

PUBLIC DEBT.

52. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at $745,734. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $90,560·18, as compared with $77,883·69 the previous year. Of the loan of $1,000,000, authorised by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, to meet the cost of certain public works and improvements, a sum of $177,600 was raised bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of $552,295·00 was advanced by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, bearing interest at current bank rate. A loan of $250,000 has been authorised under authority of this Chapter for Forest Development and Improvement. This sum is controlled by the Forest Trust.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

53. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-Department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of $171,443·76 to the credit of 1,371 depositors on 31st March, 1925, against $167,353·61 to the credit of 1,291 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1925, was $150,000 and the interest on investments was $6,533·00. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1925–26 was $4,690·11.

INCOME TAX.

54. The first assessments to Income Tax were levied in the Colony in 1921. It was imposed for the special purpose (apart from the normal sources of revenue) of meeting the interest and sinking fund on the Public Works Loan of 1920 of $1,000,000·00.

55. The rate of tax is comparatively low and is on a sliding scale. The following calculation shows the amount of tax payable on chargeable incomes up to $60,000·00 :—

	$	$	Per cent.	$	$
On the first ...	500		½	2·50	2·50
On the next...	1,500	2,000	¾	11·25	13·75
,, ,, ...	1,500	3,500	1	15·00	28·75
,, ,, ...	1,500	5,000	1½	22·50	51·25
,, ,, ...	2,500	7,500	2¼	56·25	107·50
,, ,, ...	2,500	10,000	3	75·00	182·50
,, ,, ...	5,000	15,000	4	200·00	382·50
,, ,, ...	5,000	20,000	5	250·00	632·50
,, ,, ...	5,000	25,000	7½	375·00	1,007·50
,, ,, ...	5,000	30,000	10	500·00	1,507·50
,, ,, ...	10,000	40,000	12½	1,250·00	2,757·50
,, ,, ...	20,000	60,000	15	3,000·00	5,757·50
On all amounts above	60,000		17½		

56. The statutory deductions are :—

	$
As a Resident or British subject	500·00
Wife	250·00
Child (under the age of 16 years)...	125·00

Life Insurance Premium or Contributions to Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund—not to exceed one-sixth of chargeable income.

Earned income, one-tenth, but not to exceed $500·00.

57. For the year 1925, 12,246 persons filed Income Tax returns of which 777 were assessed to tax. The following table showing the number of persons assessed and the amount of tax collected for the last five years is of interest :—

Year.	*No. of Persons assessed.*	*Tax collected.*	*Remarks.*
		$	
1920	490	73,304·64	War profits—3 years' average.
1921	454	32,521·52	Ditto.
1922	441	26,399·80	
1923	717	44,616·83	
1924	777	30,791·40	Affected by income abroad not being brought into Colony.
	2,879	$207,634·19	

58. The number of persons assessed to Income Tax in the Colony is small as compared with its population of 46,000. But it might be explained that the majority of the male adults in the

Colony are small wage-earners and the financial control is practically in the hands of a few. Under section 5 of the Ordinance, income *not* received in the Colony is not assessable to tax. Taxable persons are taking full advantage of this by exporting all their surplus capital and not bringing into the Colony the income therefrom.

59. The following table shows the number of persons who paid Income Tax from—

$		$	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
·25	to	1·00 ...	50	76	59	162	184
1·00	,,	2·50 ...	90	75	80	172	188
2·50	,,	5·00 ...	96	86	90	84	99
5·00	,,	10·00 ...	53	49	48	113	91
10·00	,,	25·00 ...	54	57	62	100	108
25·00	,,	50·00 ...	62	47	51	33	46
50·00	,,	100·00 ...	40	29	30	23	24
100·00	,,	250·00 ...	23	25	12	14	21
250·00	,,	20,000·00 ...	22	10	9	16	16
			490	454	441	717	777

IV.—Annual Progress of Trade, Agriculture and Industry.

60. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $8,091,139, or $859,114 more than the trade of the previous year. Imports increased by $620,840, while exports increased by $250,015. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

IMPORTS.

61. The total value of imports of merchandise during 1925 was $4,515,121, which was more than the total imports in 1924 by $620,840.

62. The following table shows the imports under the main heads of classification :—

	1924.	1925.
	$	$
Food, drink and tobacco ...	1,451,149	1,646,123
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	647,939	768,702
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	1,775,651	2,071,768
Miscellaneous and unclassified	19,347	9,181
Bullion and specie	195	—
	$3,894,281	$4,495,774

63. The following table shows whence imports are received :—

	Value. $	*Percentage.*
United States of America ...	2,248,389	49·80
United Kingdom	776,531	17·20
Mexico	421,772	9·34
Canada	501,030	11·10
Other British Possessions ...	87,917	1·95
Other Countries	479,482	10·61
	$4,515,121	100·00

64. The principal differences in the percentages in comparison with the previous year are as follows :—

United States of America, 49·8 as against 49·7 in 1924; United Kingdom, 17·2 as against 18·7; Canada, 11·1 as against 11·4; Mexico, 9·3 as against 9·6.

65. Trade with Canada continues to improve and has steadily increased since its inception in 1921. The value of the imports in 1925 was 501,030, as against 430,248 in 1924, an increase of $70,782, or 16 per cent. The totals in 1921 and 1922 were $143,700 and $156,750 respectively. This increase is more pronounced if the value of whisky imported is deducted. The total of this item was $133,987 in 1923, $57,278 in 1924, and $5,744 or $51,534 less in 1925.

66. The gradual increase in trade due to the subsidized steamers of the Canadian Mercantile Marine calling at Belize once every three weeks has become an important factor in the trade of the Colony. It is hoped that this trade under preferential agreement will continue to increase.

EXPORTS.

67. The total value of exports of merchandise was $3,576,018, as against $3,337,744 in 1924, an increase of $238,274.

68. The following table shows the exports under the main heads of classification :—

	1924. $	1925. $
Food, drink and tobacco ...	525,303	435,486
Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured ...	2,705,588	3,048,961
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured	92,619	88,592
Miscellaneous and unclassified	2,261	2,747
Bullion and Specie	11,973	232
	$3,337,744	$3,576,018

69. Mahogany and chicle exports continue to be the mainstay of the Colony, being responsible together, in about equal proportions, for 79 per cent. of the total exports. 12,580,836 sq. feet of mahogany, valued at $1,403,009, of which 9,400,234 sq. feet were of domestic produce, and 3,022,196 lb. of chicle, valued at $1,435,998, of which 334,892 lb. were of domestic produce, were exported during 1925.

70. The following table shows the direction of exports during 1925 :—

	Value.	*Percentage.*
	$	
United States of America ...	2,812,056	78·64
United Kingdom	417,332	11·67
Other British Possessions ...	48,102	1·35
Other countries	298,528	8·34
	$3,576,018	100·00

71. The value of exports to Canada during 1925 totalled $35,464, as against $16,864 in 1924.

V.—Progress in the Investigation and Development of Natural Resources.

72. From its early beginnings the Colony has subsisted mainly on the natural resources of its forests. Agricultural possibilities have been neglected in favour of the staple forest products, logwood, mahogany and chicle, which Man could harvest where Nature had sown. These conditions persist at the present day, though it is becoming increasingly obvious that Nature will not indefinitely acquiesce in the removal of her products without any attempt on the part of Man to aid her in replacing them. Prior to the advent of the Forest Department, practically nothing was spent by the Colony on the care and maintenance of its principal source of wealth, represented by the forests; it was simply living on its capital, and as a result large areas of once valuable forest are now in a degraded condition.

73. There has been much talk of, and until recently less practical effort towards, the development of agriculture, which remains a minor industry, as the following proportionate values of exports of domestic produce, abstracted from the Customs returns for 1925, will show :—

	Per cent.
Forest produce	78·9
Agricultural produce ...	18·6
Marine produce	2·5

FORESTRY.

74. A Forest Department has been in existence since 1922. It is the pioneer scientific forestry organization in Tropical America. Finance is derived partly from forest revenue and partly from a special loan, and the funds available are administered by a Forest Trust established for that purpose. At the close of 1925 the trained technical staff consisted of a Conservator and six Assistant Conservators, of whom two were on full-time deputation to private firms engaged in forest development projects.

75. The rapidity of progress has exceeded expectations, particularly in respect of the large forest operations established on private estates. Apart from these, afforestation work is now being carried on at six centres in different parts of the Crown lands.

76. An extensive area of forest land, topographical information with regard to which was previously lacking, has been explored and mapped by the forest staff. Examination of the practically untrodden territory adjacent to the western border between Vaca and the Rio Grande is in progress.

77. Attention has been paid to the improvement of rural communications, which in this Colony are conspicuously deficient, and reconnaissance of potential railway routes has been a special feature of the work in this connection.

78. Three important concessions for forest development which are expected to have far-reaching and beneficial results have been negotiated. These comprise a concession for extraction of the so-called secondary woods, a virtually untouched forest resource; another for the opening up of hitherto inaccessible mahogany forests in the hinterland; and a third for development of the pine industry on the Crown lands. The dependence of the Colony on imported American pine, while large tracts of good local pine are available, has been a standing reproach which is now in process of removal.

79. Satisfactory progress, considering the limited personnel available, has been made with the identification and testing of timbers, and with silvicultural research, but the field to be investigated is enormous, and the work done to date represents no more than a scratching of the surface. Forest legislation has been drafted and the framework of a sound system of forest administration and finance established.

80. Inquiries concerning forest matters may be addressed to the Conservator of Forests, Post Box 181, Belize, British Honduras.

81. Detailed information on the forests of the Colony will be found in a Report on the Forests of British Honduras, by C. Hummel, obtainable from the Conservator of Forests, price $1, or 4s. post free. The recommendations in this Report have been accepted by the Government and form the basis of its forest policy.

Forest Produce.

82. Mahogany and cedar, which are extracted together, cedar forming only a small percentage of the total output, represented two-thirds of the total value of all exports of domestic origin for the year. This figure will make clear the dominant position of the mahogany industry in the economic life of the Colony. Chicle, the forest product next in importance, was accountable for one-tenth of the same total, maintaining about the same level as the principal item of agricultural produce, namely, coconuts and their derivative copra. Logwood, now a minor forest industry struggling with the competition of synthetic dyes, accounted for one per cent. by value of the total exports. The nascent industries concerned with the utilisation of secondary woods and pine raised their percentages to ·9 and ·4 respectively; this, however, hardly gives a true idea of the actual progress of the latter enterprise, of which the first aim is to supply the local market. Rosewood, a tree of the southern district, the timber of which is in fairly steady demand for xylophone keys and tool handles, accounted for ·3 per cent.

83. The position of these established forest industries may be briefly reviewed. The accessible mahogany forests of the Colony have been severely overcut, but the demand continues good and supplies are being maintained by pushing operations into the remoter tracts by means of gasoline tractors and short logging railways. Operation by cattle-haul is being steadily superseded by mechanical traction. Extraction costs are, however, still heavy, and this factor will tend to check over-production, as any substantial drop in the market price would render a proportion of the present operations unprofitable. It appears probable that the natural supplies remaining in the Colony, especially if supplemented by the large resources, hitherto practically untouched, in the adjacent Guatemalan province of Peten, will suffice to support the industry on its present basis of output until such time as permanently productive mahogany forests have been brought into being by the operations of the Forest Department and private forest owners. The results so far achieved towards the establishment, by natural reproduction and tending, of fully-stocked forests of mahogany which, when mature, can be exploited by intensive logging methods at a fractional cost compared with that of the present system of extraction, are decidedly promising. Mahogany seedling trees, which in the natural jungle are more often than not crushed out of existence by interfering weed-growth and enveloping climbers, have been found to respond readily and rapidly to forestry treatment. Whereas in the natural " bush " the stock of mahogany trees rarely exceeds an average of one per acre, there is every reason to hope that the timber stock in the reconstituted forests can be raised to at least forty trees per acre in a period of from twenty to forty years.

84. Hopes were formerly entertained that the unexplored territory on the western border would be found to contain large reserves of mahogany. The most recent data to hand indicate that while good forest occurs between the eastern branch of the Belize River and the Chiquebul, a tributary of the western branch which re-enters British territory further south, on a course which has not yet been mapped, the hinterland southward from the Chiquebul to the neighbourhood of the Rio Grande is deficient in mahogany and other woods of value. The area of virgin mahogany land remaining in the Colony is relatively small, and future prosperity of the industry will depend on the reclamation of those worked-over areas which have been least damaged by excessive cutting.

85. Much might be done towards increasing the output of mahogany, without widening the source of supply, by the elimination of waste which, as operations are conducted at present, is considerable. Large quantities of material which is unfit for export in the log and is left to decay in the forest could be converted locally at a profit, and the present keen demand for mahogany in the form of lumber should stimulate the establishment of local sawmills.

86. Chicle, a gum derived from the sapodilla tree and used in the manufacture of chewing gum, is a forest product of considerable economic importance to the Colony. The forests from which it is derived have as a whole been badly damaged by uncontrolled tapping, but an experimental project initiated by an American company, under the supervision of the Forest Department, for the formation of regulated forests of sapodilla, and the application of scientific methods of tapping the trees for the gum, shows promise of success. This intensive method of production, which is in all respects analogous to a plantation industry, save that the trees are raised from natural seedlings instead of being planted, will in course of time, it is hoped, supersede the collection of chicle from the natural forests just as plantation rubber has to a large extent ousted wild rubber.

87. The logwood industry will probably be maintained on its present limited scale, but the prospects of expansion are not bright. It is possible that local extraction of the dye, in place of export of the dyewood in bulk, might improve the position of the industry, but the stimulus necessary for such development appears lacking at present.

88. The successful utilisation of the secondary woods of the tropical rain-forest in which mahogany occurs is perhaps the most important, and certainly the most difficult problem of forest development. Available quantities of these woods are practically unlimited, and the excellent quality of certain species is recognised; but the mixed character of the forests in which they are found, and the relatively low volume of the stand per acre, renders intensive logging by the usual methods a difficult

proposition. Nevertheless, a wide market is believed to exist for the more important varieties at a certain price level. Success depends either on the reduction of extraction cost as to allow a margin of profit at this level or on the raising of the price level by popularizing the use of the timbers. A most determined effort is being made by an American concessionaire company to bring these two factors into play, and there is no ground for pessimism as to the eventual development of this industry; patience is called for, however. The chief secondary woods exported in 1925 were Banak (*Myristica paramensis*), 377,920 feet board measure; Santa Maria (*Calophyllum calaba*), 111,716 feet board measure; and Yemeri (*Vochysia hondurensis*), 40,274 feet board measure. The first-named timber has excellent working qualities, but is peculiarly susceptible to insect attack between the time of felling and seasoning. Santa Maria is a handsome and durable wood which is expected to become the tropical substitute for oak. Yemeri is an excellent timber similar in grain to mahogany, but of lighter colour. These three species are common trees of the mixed hardwood forests of the south. Potentially valuable timbers of the north are Sapodilla and Black Poison, sometimes termed Honduras Walnut. These are present in good quantity, but the difficulty of transport has prevented their utilisation. Sapodilla, besides yielding the valuable Chicle gum, has a hard and exceptionally durable timber. Black Poison is a handsome wood resembling walnut in appearance, and owes its name to an acrid sap; the wood itself has no poisonous qualities.

89. In general, the secondary woods of the Colony offer wide opportunities for pioneer enterprise. Extensive tracts of such forest in private ownership are at present virtually unproductive and could be cheaply acquired, and a large acreage of Crown land of the same type could be made available for operation by concessionaires.

90. The delay in developing the pine resources of the Colony may be attributed partly to apathy and partly to past error in giving large concessions for operation without adequate provision to ensure exercise of the rights granted, thus encouraging purely speculative holding of such rights. Parallels to this may be traced in the forest history of other parts of the world. This phase, however, now shows signs of passing. The establishment, by the same Company referred to above as being engaged in the extraction of secondary woods, of a small mill to cut pine on a private estate, has had a far-reaching effect in bringing the qualities of the local species of pine (*Pinus caribaea*) to the public notice. After a period of initial difficulties this mill is turning out lumber which not only finds favour and competes successfully with imported timber in the local market, but has been exported in some quantity to the neighbouring republics. The possibilities of expansion of the industry are now attracting the attention of

some of the largest pine operators of the Southern States of North America, where many mills are having to close down in consequence of the steady depletion of the forests of yellow pine.

91. The chief forestry problem in connection with pine is the prevention of the wanton firing of the forests annually by hunters and graziers, which has actually destroyed the growth over large areas and acts as a continued check on the establishment of young growth. It will take time and patience to build up an organization which will be effective for this purpose, but the prospective timber and turpentine operators have a parallel interest in fire protection and their assistance should help towards ultimate success.

92. It is anticipated that an industry for the collection and manufacture of "naval stores" (turpentine and resin) will develop concurrently with the pine lumber operations. Experimental tests made hitherto show good quality and flow of resin from the pine. It is possible that conservative tapping on the French system, as distinct from the destructive tapping practised in the United States, may later on be found feasible in pine areas too inaccessible to be worked for lumber.

93. The rosewood industry as organized at present is unlikely to expand materially, but the development of the secondary woods in those southern forests in which the rosewood areas occur should cheapen extraction and widen the basis of output.

94. A number of potential forest industries might be added to those described. The silviculture of the fast-growing Balsa woods, which are already being used in some quantity in the United States for insulating purposes, for example, in the manufacture of boxes for the carriage of perishable goods, is the subject of experiment by the forest department. Such woods might also achieve importance as a source of cellulose and power alcohol. Fibre-plants of the forest, such as the Silk Grass (Arghan), may one day attain an economic value, and the field of medicinal plants, gums, spices, etc., is practically untouched. Castilloa rubber occurs naturally, but the boom has failed to induce any revival of the former tapping industry. Planted Para rubber grows well enough, but the deficiency and high cost of labour would militate against the successful establishment and working of plantations.

AGRICULTURE.

95. The chief agricultural industry at the present time is the cultivation of coconuts. The banana industry is on the decline owing to Panama disease, and the only hope of restoring its prosperity lies in the introduction of a variety of the fruit which will resist the disease. Sugar is produced on a small scale, but apparently with fair profit, by a number of small mills in the

Toledo and Corozal Districts. There is a large acreage of land excellently suited for sugar growing, and a central factory should be a profitable undertaking. Labour supply is the only difficult factor.

96. Slow but sure steps were made during the year towards the development of agriculture. The increasing demand in the markets of the world for the produce of tropical countries cannot but fail to be reflected in increased attention being paid to the agricultural resources of the Colony. Satisfactory progress has been made in the development of the property which was purchased by the Government upon which to establish an Agricultural School. Upon this property there is a small grove of grapefruit trees, which were planted some twelve years ago by the previous owner. These trees bear luxuriantly a fruit of exceptionally high quality. Experimental shipments of this fruit to Canada, Bermuda and London have proved profitable and, in spite of primitive methods of grading and imperfect facilities for packing the fruit, the reports which have been received upon the condition in which the fruit arrived at the markets to which it was sent have been most encouraging. As might be expected, some shipments failed, but careful records were kept of the condition of the fruit when it left the packing shed, and the information gained by these failures has been invaluable.

97. An experimental shipment of cassava flour, which is used in the manufacture of starch, glue and pastes, was made to Canada. It found a market and resulted in orders being received for considerable quantities. The cassava or tapioca plant is grown by the Carib communities in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, and the cultivation of this plant and arrowroot can be greatly increased provided that profitable markets can be found for the flour which is produced from the tuberous roots of these plants.

98. The Colony is essentially one for the peasant proprietor and small farmer, engaged in " mixed farming " and marketing their produce co-operatively. Preliminary steps towards the establishment of a Co-operative Agricultural Society were taken during the year.

MARINE PRODUCTS.

99. Brief reference may be made to the marine products of the Colony. The rock lobster canning industry shows a very satisfactory expansion, its products during 1925 having amounted to 1·3 per cent. by value of the total exports of the Colony. The tortoise-shell industry remained steady with a percentage of 1·2. The sponge industry has been the subject of recent examination by an expert and is believed to have a promising future.

WATER POWER.

100. There has been no examination as yet of hydro-electric possibilities. No waterfalls of any considerable size and height

are known to exist, but there is little doubt that considerable supplies of power could be obtained by impounding the water of numerous streams rising in the mountain mass which occupies the centre and western part of the Colony.

MINERALS.

101. The presence of exploitable mineral deposits is still in the stage of investigation.

GEOLOGY.

102. British Honduras, being only a coastal strip of the Yucatan Peninsula, must be considered relatively to Central America and the Caribbean.

It forms portion of the old Antillean Continent of which the West Indies, Central America and the north of South America are now the remnants.

The Maya Mountains form the central mass of British Honduras and rise rapidly from the coastal plain to altitudes of over 3,000 feet. Surrounding this, except on the coastal side, is limestone, some of which has been included in the uplift but never exceeds 2,500 feet elevation.

The oldest rocks are of Upper Carboniferous age and consist mainly of slates, but there are some sandstones, quartzites, a blue crinoidal limestone, and quartz porphyry is present both as sheets and masses. When the deposition of the sedimentary rocks ceased, they were compressed and folded into east and west lines, granite being intruded into the crests of the folds. The area remained a land surface for a considerable time during which not only the overlaying slates but also much of the intruded igneous rock was washed away. The whole Antillean Continent eventually became submerged and in lower tertiary times thick deposits of limestone began to accumulate. The area became involved in the Miocene earth movements and the first of British Honduras, viz., the Maya Mountains, arose, the uplift being still in progress. As compensation, other areas are sinking, hence the adjacent ocean " deeps " from which the name Honduras is derived.

The most interesting feature of the Colony is the coral reef extending almost its whole length at from 15 to 22 miles off shore. Further out to sea are the " banks " of Turneffe (480 square miles), Lighthouse Reef (180 square miles) and Glovers Reef (130 square miles), rising out of great depths. There are patches of dry land on these outlayers and also on the barrier reef, but they are all in a sinking area and are really only storm beaches overlying coral. The coral formations of the Caribbean are considered to be of no great thickness. No signs of old coral reefs have been noted on the mainland of the Colony.

The northern portion of British Honduras is limestone, most of which is within 100 feet of sea-level. Marls are associated with it and there are several lines of large flints.

On the east between the shore and the mountains is the coastal plain, the alluvial being thin except in the area between Monkey and Mullins rivers.

Overlying the limestone in parts of the southern portion of the Colony, and extending into Guatemala, are the Toledo series of thin-bedded shales, the included beds of diatomite indicating deep-sea conditions. These Toledo shales produce some of the best agricultural land in the Colony. Half the Colony is over 1,000 feet elevation, the highest point being the Cockscomb Peak, 3,800 feet, but much of the main dividing range reaches 3,000 feet elevation.

The drainage of the Colony is almost entirely into the Caribbean Sea, but the Rio Usumacinto, which empties into the Gulf of Mexico, probably has its source in British Honduras.

The Belize River is the main stream in the Colony and takes some water from Guatemala, but has its source on the western side of the main divide. The Rio Hondo and New River are the main streams of the northern district and are navigable for a considerable distance, but only drain the limestone area of low elevation. The Mexican hills rise from the water's edge on the western side of the Rio Hondo.

Streams that traverse the mountain limestone are usually subterranean for portions of their course.

The Mountain Pine Ridge of about 120 square miles is from 1,500 to 3,000 feet elevation, is well watered and is fair grazing land. The other pine belts are close to sea-level and inclined to be sour.

The Colony's chief products are located as follows :—

Mahogany is nearly always found on land that was once cultivated. It is absent in slate country.

The sapodilla, which yields chicle for chewing gum, is found on limestone and occasionally on granitic areas.

Pine is almost entirely confined to the coastal plain.

Logwood selects calcareous swamps and is confined to the northern district.

Bananas are produced on the fertile soils of the non-calcareous coastal streams.

Coconuts are grown on the cays and narrow sandy beaches.

A little sugar is planted on the Toledo shales and northern marls, the Indian settlement being usually located on these formations.

Tin in unpayable quantities comes from the contact of the granite and slates.

There are a number of quartz reefs, usually near the granite contact, but the only one of any interest at present is in the slate country at the source of the Rio Grande. This was discovered during the geological survey and consists of a quartz reef about five miles long following the crest of the east and west quartz ridge which rises to over 3,000 feet. No mining rights are being issued until further tests are made.

There are no positive indications of petroleum, but in Southern Peten and Northern British Honduras the conditions are not unfavourable.

103. The future of the Colony, in so far as it is possible at present to foresee, lies in the intelligent organization of its present staple industries—forestry, agriculture and fisheries—on a basis of *sustained production*. A fact which is frequently overlooked is that sustained production is an essential condition in building up a system of communications, such as constitutes the vital need of the Colony. The uncertainty of the present economic position is, in the main, attributable to the fugitive methods of harvesting natural products, mahogany in particular, which have prevailed in the past.

VI.—Banks and Banking Facilities.

104. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking institution in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under Head II. —Financial.

VII.—Education.

105. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational Church schools, which has proved so far to be best suited to the needs of the Colony. Rules made by the Board of Education were amended in 1923 effecting a change in the method of making grants-in-aid to denominational schools.

106. The Compulsory Attendance Law of 1915 has not yet for various reasons been applied to all parts of the Colony. The maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. The law has been temporarily suspended, pending amendments. Grants-in-aid from General Revenue are based, principally, on the teaching staffs of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendances of children between the ages of five and sixteen years. A small attendance grant *per capita* is also made, and an efficiency grant is made annually on the results of the school examinations. There are other grants. The total grants-in-aid in 1925 amounted

to $60,638·00, which included teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was $1,449·42. The number of aided schools in operation in 1925 was 69, as against 66 in 1924. In Belize District there are 22, in Corozal District 13, in Orange Walk District 9, in Cayo District 7, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo District 10.

107. The total number of pupils on the rolls in aided schools was 6,787; of these 3,558 were boys and 3,229 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,102, of which 2,679 were boys and 2,423 girls.

108. During the year there were employed 130 teachers, 102 being certificated and 57 pupil-teachers. The majority of the former are obtained from the pupil-teachers' class, a method which, because of the absence of any provision for normal training, is far from satisfactory.

109. There are a few elementary schools in the Colony which are unaided. These have a total of about 600 pupils on the rolls with an average attendance of about 500.

110. The competitive exhibition of school work, which was first held in 1892 and continued annually till 1897, when it was abandoned for want of funds, was reinstituted during the year 1924. It established the educational value of such competitions. For various reasons the exhibition could not be held during the year under review, but it is the intention that it be continued.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

111. Secondary education continued to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year 1925 was $650. These schools have a total roll of about 601, and the average attendance is 515, but only about one-half of these receive secondary education. In December, 38 pupils were presented for the Cambridge Examinations, 22 for the Preliminary, 15 for the Junior, and 1 for the School Certificate. The successes were as follows:—Five pupils passed the Preliminary and seven the Junior Examination. The ordinary rate of fees in these schools is $3·00 a month. The total number on roll for schools of all classes is 7,953, and the average attendance is 6,077. This shows that about two-thirds of the children of school age are under instruction.

112. The expenditure for the year was $68,818·36, which shows a decrease, compared with 1924, of $1,929·45. There were expenses incurred by the churches in the erection of new

school buildings and in repairs and improvements in 1925; approximately a sum of $4,605·43. Based on the daily average of attendances the cost per head worked out at $13·49, of which sum $12·92 was borne by General Revenue.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

113. There is little technical education or vocational training undertaken in the Colony. Needlework, however, forms part of the curriculum in the girls' schools.

The establishment of an Agricultural School for boys will fill a long-felt want.

VIII.—Legislation.

114. During the year 1925 twenty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest :—

Ordinance No. 7 *of* 1925.—An Ordinance to make provision for the registration of Clubs and the sale of intoxicating liquors therein.

Ordinance No. 11 *of* 1925.—An Ordinance for the more effectual prevention of crime.

Ordinance No. 15 *of* 1925.—An Ordinance to amend the Marriage Ordinance—Chapter 99 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

This ordinance *inter alia* reduces the age at which a marriage may be contracted, without parental consent, from twenty-one to eighteen years.

IX.—Communications.

115. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

116. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are

subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders & Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

117. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

ROADS.

118. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. Satisfactory progress was made in linking up Belize with Corozal in the north by a road which it is hoped will eventually provide " all weather " communication for light traffic.

X.—Public Works.

119. The reconstruction of the Court House building was undertaken during the year 1924. The building was completed early in 1925 at a cost of $59,932.

120. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost $12,045·00.

The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled $29,045·00.

During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled $37,749·00.

XI.—Shipping.

121. The number of vessels that entered at the several ports of the Colony during the year 1925 was as follows :—

	British.	*Foreign.*	*Total.*
Steamships	89	193	282
Sailing vessels	117	218	335
	206	411	617

122. The net tonnage of the sailing vessels amounted to 24,545 and of the steamships 618,618.

123. Belize is a port of registry. Three sailing vessels were registered during the year. The total tonnage of these amounted to 46.

XII.—Postal, Telegraph & Telephone Services.

Post Office.

124. At the end of the year there were twenty-six Post Offices established in the Colony, six of which were Money Order Offices.

125. The total number of postal articles dealt with in the internal mails during the year was 188,351, while the estimated number dealt with in the foreign mails was 709,940. As compared with 1924, while the parcels business with the United States of America still looms largest, business with Great Britain and Canada shows improvement on the whole, as reflected in the Money Order and other transactions. The reduction in cost effected by the British Preferential Tariff is apparently having some effect though it has not proved a sufficient offset against the advantages of proximity and regularity of transport possessed by the United States.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

126. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 925 miles of lines with 32 offices; the same as in 1924, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

There is one telephone exchange in Belize with 367 subscribers, an increase over the previous year of 32.

Radio Telegraphs.

127. The installations in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (A) 25 kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18, (B) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave lengths. Its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 metres and 1,500 metre wavelengths; all commercial and government traffic being handled on the 1,500 metre wave.

Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on 1,500 metre wave and 400 on 600 metre wave.

In addition to handling every type of public traffic the Station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12·00 hours and 23·10 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,500 metre wavelength.

A direct service to Guatemala City was inaugurated on 1st October, 1925.

Public traffic is accepted by the Station between the hours of 12·00 and 15·00 G.M.T.

Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times G.M.T. :—

13.00 to 14.30 hrs.
15.00 „ 15.30 „
15.45 „ 16.15 „
17.00 „ 19.30 „
21.15 to 21.45 hrs.
23.30 „ 01.30 „
02.00 „ 04.00 „

XIII.—Official Publications.

128. A handbook prepared by Messrs. M. S. Metzgen and H. E. C. Cain, and published by the West India Committee, has been in considerable demand, indicating that there is a growing interest in the Colony. It is hoped shortly to revise the handbook and to republish it.

129. There is an Annual Report on Trade by the Collector of Customs and an official *Gazette* printed and published weekly at the Government printing office.

C. DOUGLAS-JONES,
Colonial Secretary.

27th July, 1926.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

REPORT FOR 1926.

(For Report for 1924 see No. 1277 (price 9d.) and for Report for 1925 see No. 1308 (price 1s.).)

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1926.

With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1927.

Geographical.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about 4 feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek District. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and, in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

Historical.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archæologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony, and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George," to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded, in perpetuity to Great Britain, by Treaty with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies, or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date, the population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer

the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. Again in 1754 another attempt was made and defeated " principally by slaves " at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

Constitution.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790-1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlements. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica.

In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1889, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were three unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each district, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law; and is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his district, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Local Administration.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulation, naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their districts, building construction, &c. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

I.—GENERAL.

15. On 19th July, 1926, the Governor and Lady Burdon returned to the Colony after a three months' visit to Canada, during which His Excellency took the opportunity of discussing the agricultural and railway possibilities of this Colony with representatives of financial and business houses. During His Excellency's absence the Government was administered by the Honourable C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

16. In January, 1926, in recognition of his services in connection with the representation of this Colony at the British Empire Exhibition, the Honourable C. Hummel was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division.

17. The Colony was honoured with a visit by Professor S. J. Record, of the School of Forestry of Yale University, during January, 1926.

18. The concession granted during 1924 to Lady Richmond Brown, Dr. Gann and Mr. Mitchell Hedges, to explore ancient monuments and mounds on certain Crown lands was transferred to the Trustees of the British Museum and, as a result, Captain T. A. Joyce, O.B.E., M.A., Deputy Keeper of Ceramics and Ethnography, visited the Maya ruins of Lubaantun in March, 1926. A considerable number of objects of stone, pottery, and shell were discovered during excavation, and were obtained from natives who had found them in their plantations in the immediate vicinity of the ruins.

An illustrated report on Captain Joyce's investigations was published by the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (see Journal, Volume LVI, July-December, 1926), from which the following paragraph has been culled :—

> " The complete absence of hieroglyphic inscriptions makes it extremely difficult to relate any one of these phases with Maya chronology. But the very close correspondence of the art as shown in the mould-made pottery, with that of the Early Empire sites of Copan, Quirigua and Palenque, suggests that the site of Lubaantun flourished in the Early Empire, and that its origin dates from a still remoter period, because these pottery remains were all found above or outside the buildings in the perpendicular and megalithic styles. So far no attempt has been made to penetrate the earlier architectural complexes. Further, there are indications that the site was inhabited in late Maya times, and possibly even after the discovery of

> America. In any case, the presumptive evidence indicates that the intensive excavation of Lubaantun would shed much light on the obscure culture-history and development of the Maya."

An appeal to the British Public, by the Trustees of the Museum, for contribution towards "an enterprise which promises results of the highest archaeological interest, and which it is for the honour of the British Empire to undertake" has since been launched.

19. The outstanding event of 1926 was undoubtedly the bequest to the Colony of the residuary estate of the late Baron Bliss, J.P., formerly of Quarry Court, Marlow, Bucks, who died at Belize on the 9th March. The Will provides for the creation of the "Baron Bliss Trust," the Chairman of which is the Governor of the Colony, and the income of which is to be devoted to such purposes as the Trustees consider to be for the benefit or development of British Honduras. Until probate is obtained, however, the extent to which the Colony will benefit financially is uncertain.

20. The Colony was represented at the West Indian Conference held in London during May and June, 1926, by Captain V. Grey-Wilson, V.D., Collector of Customs and Harbour Master.

21. In July, 1926, the foundation stone of the Government Industrial School for Boys at Pomona Ridge, Stann Creek, was laid by Mr. C. Douglas-Jones, C.M.G., Officer Administering the Government. The building, designed to accommodate fifty inmates at present, was commenced soon after; at the end of the year considerable progress toward completion had been made.

22. Mr. L. R. Crawshay, M.A., the Sponge Fishery Research Officer in the British West Indies, paid a second visit to the Colony in July and August, 1926, to examine the results of the work done at the Turneffe Sponge Grounds during his previous visit. The results were reported as very promising and the rate of growth was believed to be not lower than has usually been found to occur under favourable conditions in the Bahamas. During this visit arrangements were made for the extension of the experiments over a wider area.

II.—PUBLIC HEALTH, VITAL STATISTICS, AND CLIMATE.

23. The general health of the Colony was good. No maritime quarantine diseases were reported.

Prevalent Diseases.

24. *Dysentery.*—There were 24 deaths registered in 1926, being one more than in 1925. The epidemic of this disease, which broke out in the Lunatic Asylum towards the end of 1925, causing 10 deaths, caused four more in 1926. The type is usually the amœbic and amenable to treatment. The deaths in the Asylum

were all bacillary and most of the others were attributed to this variety. the fall of the year is the usual time for the appearance of this disease.

25. *Malaria.*—The registered deaths in 1926 amounted to 28. In 1925 the number was 29. This disease is prevalent throughout the Colony and, while it is mostly of a mild type and the death-rate is not high—being about 6 per cent. of the total certified deaths—yet the amount of invaliding is considerable. All types of the disease are met with. The quartan is seldom seen, while the tertian is the common variety.

26. Progress is being made in anti-mosquito measures in the towns and settled parts of the Colony and people are beginning to co-operate with the Central Board of Health and appreciate their efforts, not only to improve the health of the community, but also to ameliorate their physical discomforts.

27. Owing, however, to the nature of the principal industries at present in the Colony, viz., mahogany cutting and chicle bleeding, the task of reducing the incidence of malaria is an exceedingly difficult one. Those industries are carried on in dense forests, mostly flat and in many cases swampy, where the conditions are ideal for mosquito breeding and the cost of eradication is prohibitive. The people live in camps made of bush houses and move from one place to another at frequent intervals.

28. *Tuberculosis.*—Pulmonary form. The registered deaths in 1926 were 40, as compared with 50 in 1925, and 49 from all forms, as compared with 55 in 1925. This disease is notifiable but it is doubtful whether this will ever have any material effect in reducing the incidence until segregation is made compulsory and suitable sanatoriums provided. Here again the people are becoming alive to this menace, a request having been received from one of the more important districts that such measures should be provided.

29. *Rabies.*—Three deaths occurred in the early part of 1926 following the first outbreak in the history of the Colony in 1925, in which year two deaths occurred. All three occurred in Belize, the last being dated 18th February. There were no further cases reported in the Colony until November, when one death was reported from Stann Creek. The stringent restrictions enforced by the Central Board of Health are apparently having effect.

30. *Enteric Fever.*—Two deaths occurred in 1926, being both imported cases.

31. *Cancer.*—In 1926 there were 17 deaths, as compared with 12 in 1925. It is doubtful whether the increase is of any significance.

32. *Infantile Mortality.*—The death-rate is still high although favourable when compared with many parts of the West Indies. The incidence for 1926 was 141 per 1,000, as compared with 112 per 1,000 in 1925.

33. Perhaps the most outstanding feature in the improvement in the health of the Colony for 1926 has been the decision of the Government to establish a Training School for Nurses and a modern Maternity Home. This will in a short time have far-reaching effects on infantile mortality and general morbidity, not only as the result of cases admitted to the Public Institution, but from the diffusion of knowledge and gradual raising of the standard of private nursing throughout the Colony.

Vital Statistics.

34. The estimated population of the Colony on the 31st December, 1926, was 48,584, as follows :—

Males	24,022
Females	24,562

35. The population to the square mile, based on the estimated population, was 5.65.

36. The number of births registered during the year was 1,864, and the number of deaths 1,173.

37. The number of marriages registered in 1926 was 518, the rate being 10.66 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 8.46 for 1925. Of the 1,864 births, 955 were males and 909 were females. The birth-rate works out at 38.36 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as against 37.27 per 1,000 during 1925.

38. Of the 1,173 deaths, 616 were males and 557 were females. This shows a total increase of 149 deaths as compared with the previous year. The deaths correspond to a rate of 24.143 per 1,000 of the estimated population, as compared with 21.38 for the year 1925.

39. There was an increase in the number of infant deaths. The index of 112 out of each 1,000 births in 1925 increased to 141 in 1926.

40. The principal causes of death during 1926, in order of degree, were from disease of the digestive system, followed by those of the respiratory system, and then by those classified under the genito-urinary system. There were 28 deaths from malaria, 22 from broncho-pneumonia, 40 from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 34 from enteritis during the year.

Climate.

41. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

42. The highest rainfall registered in 1926 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 144.06 inches. The lowest rainfall was at Corozal in the Corozal District, which had a total of 39.29 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 60.05 inches.

43. The hottest day for the year 1926 was the 29th July, on which the thermometer registered 88.0° F., and the coldest day the 20th February, when it registered 54.0° F.

44. The maximum wind velocity was 36 miles per hour on the following dates:—17th January, 19th February, 23rd June, 5th July, 9th August, 14th and 17th October, and 11th and 24th December. The maximum precipitation was on the 29th January, when 4.17 inches was registered in 24 consecutive hours.

III.—GOVERNMENT FINANCE.

Revenue.

45. The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended on 31st March, 1927, amounted to $1,116,432.30, being $120,144.83 more than the revenue of the preceding year.

Expenditure.

46. The expenditure for the financial year 1926-27 was estimated at $1,031,790.00, but the amount actually spent was $1,040,490.11, which shows an increase of $8,700.11 as compared with the Estimates for the year, and is more than the expenditure for the same period of the preceding year by $69,293.15.

Assets and Liabilities.

47. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1927, were $1,557,656.76, and the liabilities $1,303,128.24, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $254,528.82. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds, and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed loan. The main liability is the amount due to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The available cash balances total $29,013.03.

48. The Colony possesses further assets, in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two and a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony.

The revenue derived from Crown lands during the year 1926-27 was $62,191.60, made up as follows:—

	$
Crown Rents	11,712.59
Licences	49,736.83
Sale of leases	742.18

Currency.

49. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces and bronze 1 cent pieces coined specially for the Colony. There is paper currency of 10, 5 and 2 dollars, and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1927, the value of currency notes in circulation was $406,607, and the currency reserve on that date consisted of $307,001 in gold and $134,937 in British and Colonial investments.

50. The interest on investments was $11,853.46, and this sum was credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

51. The estimated amount of coin in circulation at 31st March, 1927, was :—

	$
Silver	190,052.30
Nickel bronze	5,380.70
Bronze	6,146.63

Public Debt.

52. At the close of the financial year the public debt of the Colony stood at $745,734. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $105,207.00 as compared with $90,560.18 the previous year. Of the loan of $1,000,000, authorised by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, to meet the cost of certain public works and improvements, a sum of $177,600 was raised, bearing interest at 6 per cent., and a further sum of $688,375.00 was advanced by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, bearing interest at current bank-rate. A loan of $250,000 has been authorised under authority of this Chapter for Forest Development and Improvement. This sum is controlled by the Forest Trust.

Government Savings Bank.

53. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The bank had a sum of $177,255.58 to the credit of 1,414 depositors on 31st March, 1927, against $171,443.76 to the credit of 1,371 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1927, was $160,000 and the interest on investments was $6,765.36. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1926-27 was $5,011.41.

IV.—ANNUAL PROGRESS OF TRADE, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

54. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $8,994,453 or $903,314 more than the trade of the previous year. Imports increased by $550,542, while exports increased by $352,772. There has been no change with regard to the sources of supply or destination of the products. The United States of America, as previously shown, controls the bulk of trade.

Imports.

55. The imports increased by $550,542 over the previous year, the total for 1926 being $5,065,663 as against $4,515.121 in 1925.

56. A comparative statement for the years 1925 and 1926, classified according to groups, is given hereunder :—

Classes.	1925. $	1926. $	*Increase.* $	*Decrease.* $
1. Food, drink and tobacco...	1,646,123	1,710,507	64,384	—
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	768,702	1,077,844	309,142	—
3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	2,071,768	2,258,626	186,858	—
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified.	28,528	18,486	—	10.042
5. Bullion and specie ...	—	200	200	—
	$4,515,121	$5,065,663	$560,584	$10,042

57. The direction of the import trade for the years 1925-26 is shown in the following table :—

	1925. $	*Per cent.*	1926. $	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom	776,531	17·20	858,149	16·94
Canada	501 030	11·10	532,392	10·51
Other British Possessions ...	87,917	1·95	98,029	1·94
United States of America ...	2,248,389	49·80	2,375,428	46·89
Mexico...	421,772	9·34	612,998	12·10
Other countries	479.482	10·61	588,667	11·62

58. Imports for home consumption amounted to $4,166,729.

Exports.

59. The value of the exports, excluding bullion and specie, amounted to $3,928,790, or $352,772 more than the total for 1925.

60. The following table shows the value of the export trade for 1926 as compared with that of 1925 :—

	1925. $	1926. $	*Increase.* $	*Decrease.* $
Domestic exports ...	1,613,090	1,910,888	297,798	—
Re-exports	1,962,696	2,015,302	52,606	—
Bullion and specie ...	232	2,600	2,368	—
	$3,576,018	$3,928,790	$352,772	—

61. The exports of mahogany increased largely during the year, the total rising to 18,745,537 superficial feet, a gain of approximately 50 per cent. over the exports for the previous year, when the total was 12,580,836 superficial feet. From the 1st April, 1925, 25 per cent. is added to the total measurement of all logs which are measured "small end, small way."

62. The details of the exports, as compared with 1925, were as follows :—

	1926.	1925.	*Increase.*
	s. ft.	*s. ft.*	*s. ft.*
Domestic produce ...	15,252,415	9,400,234	5,752,181
Re-exports	3,493,122	3,180,602	312,520
	18,745,537 s. ft.	12,580,836 s. ft.	6,164,701 s. ft.

63. Exports to the United Kingdom, due to poor market conditions, decreased from 3,087,255 superficial feet in 1925 to 1,513,487 superficial feet in 1926.

64. There was little or no demand for cedar, the exports falling to 292,741 superficial feet. The exports in 1924 and 1925 were 641,517 and 465,979 superficial feet, respectively.

65. The distribution of the exports during the years 1925-26 is shown hereunder :—

	1925.		1926.	
	$	*Per Cent.*	$	*Per Cent.*
United Kingdom	417,332	11·67	245,502	6·25
Other British Possessions ...	48,102	1·35	209,200	5·33
United States of America ...	2,812,056	78·64	3,208,006	81·65
Other countries	298,528	8·34	266,082	6·77

V.—PROGRESS IN THE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

Forestry.

66. A Forest Department has been in existence since 1922. Finance is derived partly from general forest revenue and partly from a special loan, and the funds available are administered by a Forest Trust established for that purpose. At the close of 1926 the trained technical staff consisted of a Conservator, a Deputy Conservator, and four Assistant Conservators, of whom one was on full-time deputation to a private firm engaged in forest development.

67. The final Forest Ordinance became law on 14th October, 1926 (Ordinance No. 32 of 1926). Rules under the Ordinance were made by the Governor in Council on 8th December, 1926, to come into force on 1st January, 1927 (Forest Rules, 1927). This settlement of legislative questions represents a landmark in the history of forestry in the Colony, providing, as it does, for adequate protection for the forests and a stable system of forest finance.

68. The topographical exploration of the Crown forests was continued and considerable advance was made in the compilation of regional maps, particularly in the areas opened by and adjacent to the larger forest concessionnaires and licensees. Reconnaissance of potential railway routes has been a special feature of these explorations.

69. Silvicultural improvement operations, carried on at six centres in different parts of the Crown lands, have shown good progress, and similar work has been established on private estates.

70. Indications of an increase in the exploitation of secondary woods have been encouraging and the prospects of an early development of the pine industry have been decidedly enhanced by the amalgamation of the Companies interested in the Placentia Concession area.

71. Further research has been conducted in connection with the silviculture of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King) and sapodilla (*Achras Sapota L.*), the identification and testing of timbers, and the general ecology of forest types in the Colony.

72. Inquiries concerning forest matters may be addressed to the Conservator of Forests, Post Box 181, Belize, British Honduras.

73. Detailed information on the forests of the Colony will be found in a report on the Forests of British Honduras by C. Hummel, obtainable from the Conservator of Forests, price $1.00 or 4s. post free. The recommendation in this report have been accepted by the Government and form the basis of its forest policy.

Forest Produce.

74. The dominant position of the forest industry in the economic life of the Colony is indicated by the following summary of exports of forest produce, in percentages of the total value of all exports of domestic origin :—

	1926. *per cent.*	1925. *per cent.*
Mahogany and cedar	75.6	66.7
Chicle	5.9	9.6
Secondary woods	1.0	.9
Logwood	.9	1.0
Pine	.7	.4
Rosewood	.1	.3
Miscellaneous	.1	.0
	84.3	79.9

75. The position of these established forest industries may be briefly reviewed. The accessible mahogany forests of the Colony have been severely overcut, but the demand continues good and

supplies are being maintained by pushing operations into the remoter tracts by means of gasolene tractors and short logging railways. Operation by cattle-haul is being steadily superseded by mechanical traction. Extraction costs are, however, still heavy, and this factor will tend to check over-production, as any substantial drop in the market price would render a proportion of the present operations unprofitable. It appears probable that the natural supplies remaining in the Colony, especially if supplemented by the large resources, hitherto practically untouched, in the adjacent Guatemalan province of Peten, will suffice to support the industry on its present basis of output until such time as permanently productive mahogany forests have been brought into being by the operations of the Forest Department and private forest owners. The results so far achieved towards the establishment, by natural reproduction and tending, of fully-stocked forests of mahogany which, when mature, can be exploited by intensive logging methods at a fractional cost compared with that of the present system of extraction, are decidedly promising. Mahogany seedling trees, which in the natural jungle are more often than not crushed out of existence by interfering weed-growth and enveloping climbers, have been found to respond readily and rapidly to forestry treatment. Whereas in the natural "bush" the stock of mahogany trees rarely exceeds an average of one per acre, there is every reason to hope that the timber stock in the reconstituted forests can be raised to at least forty trees per acre in a period of from twenty to forty years.

76. Hopes were formerly entertained that the unexplored territory on the western border would be found to contain large reserves of mahogany. The most recent data to hand indicate that while good forest occurs between the eastern branch of the Belize River and the Chiquebul, a tributary of the western branch which re-enters British territory further south on a course which has not yet been mapped, the hinterland southward from the Chiquebul to the neighbourhood of the Rio Grande is deficient in mahogany and other woods of value. The area of virgin mahogany land remaining in the Colony is relatively small, and future prosperity of the industry will depend on the reclamation of those worked-over areas which have been least damaged by excessive cutting.

77. Much might be done towards increasing the output of mahogany, without widening the source of supply, by the elimination of waste which, as operations are conducted at present, is considerable. Large quantities of material which is unfit for export in the log and is left to decay in the forest could be converted locally at a profit, and the present keen demand for mahogany in the form of lumber should stimulate the establishment of local sawmills.

78. Chicle, a gum derived from the sapodilla tree and used in the manufacture of chewing gum, is a forest product of considerable

economic importance to the Colony. The forests from which it is derived have, as a whole, been badly damaged by uncontrolled tapping, but an experimental project initiated by an American company, under the supervision of the Forest Department, for the formation of regulated forests of sapodilla, and the application of scientific methods of tapping the trees for the gum, shows promise of success. This intensive method of production, which is in all respects analogous to a plantation industry save that the trees are raised from natural seedlings instead of being planted, will in course of time, it is hoped, supersede the collection of chicle from the natural forests just as plantation rubber has to a large extent ousted wild rubber.

79. The logwood industry will probably be maintained on its present limited scale, but the prospects of expansion are not bright. It is possible that local extraction of the dye, in place of export of the dyewood in bulk, might improve the position of the industry, but the stimulus necessary for such development appears lacking at present.

80. The successful utilisation of the secondary woods of the tropical rain-forest in which mahogany occurs is perhaps the most important, and certainly the most difficult, problem of forest development. Available quantities of these woods are practically unlimited, and the excellent quality of certain species is recognised; but the mixed character of the forests in which they are found, and the relatively low volume of the stand per acre, renders intensive logging by the usual methods a difficult proposition. Nevertheless, a wide market is believed to exist for the more important varieties at a certain price level. Success depends either on the reduction of extraction costs so as to allow a margin of profit at this level or on the raising of the price level by popularising the use of the timbers. A most determined effort is being made by an American concessionnaire company to bring these two factors into play, and there is no ground for pessimism as to the eventual development of this industry; patience is called for, however. The chief secondary woods exported in 1926 were Banak (*Myristica paramensis*), 355,256 feet board measure; Santa Maria (*Calophyllum calaba*), 159,103 feet board measure; and Yemeri (*Vochysia hondurensis*), 3,451 feet board measure. The first-named timber has excellent working qualities, but is peculiarly susceptible to insect attack between the time of felling and seasoning. Santa Maria is a handsome and durable wood which is expected to become the tropical substitute for oak. Yemeri is an excellent timber similar in grain to mahogany, but of lighter colour. These three species are common trees of the mixed hardwood forests of the south. Potentially valuable timbers of the north are Sapodilla and Black Poison, sometimes termed Honduras Walnut. These are present in good quantity, but the difficulty of transport has prevented their utilisation. Sapodilla, besides yielding the valuable Chicle gum,

has a hard and exceptionally durable timber. Black Poison is a handsome wood resembling walnut in appearance, and owes its name to an acrid sap; the wood itself has no poisonous qualities.

81. In general, the secondary woods of the Colony offer wide opportunities for pioneer enterprise. Extensive tracts of such forest in private ownership are at present virtually unproductive and could be cheaply acquired, and a large acreage of Crown land of the same type could be made available for operation by concessionnaires.

82. The delay in developing the pine resources of the Colony may be attributed partly to apathy and partly to past error in giving large concessions for operation without adequate provision to ensure exercise of the rights granted, thus encouraging purely speculative holding of such rights. Parallels to this may be traced in the forest history of other parts of the world. This phase, however, now shows signs of passing. The establishment, by the same Company referred to above as being engaged in the extraction of secondary woods, of a small mill to cut pine on a private estate, has had a far-reaching effect in bringing the qualities of the local species of pine (*Pinus caribaea*) to the public notice. After a period of initial difficulties this mill is turning out lumber which not only finds favour and competes successfully with imported timber in the local market, but has been exported in some quantity to the neighbouring republics. The possibilities of expansion of the industry are now attracting the attention of some of the largest pine operators of the Southern States of North America, where many mills are having to close down in consequence of the steady depletion of the forests of yellow pine.

83. The chief forestry problem in connection with pine is the prevention of the wanton firing of the forests annually by hunters and graziers, which has actually destroyed the growth over large areas and acts as a continued check on the establishment of young growth. It will take time and patience to build up an organization which will be effective for this purpose, but the prospective timber and turpentine operators have a parallel interest in fire protection and their assistance should help towards ultimate success.

84. It is anticipated that an industry for the collection and manufacture of " naval stores " (turpentine and resin) will develop concurrently with the pine lumber operations. Experimental tests made hitherto show good quality and flow of resin from the pine. It is possible that conservative tapping, on the French system, as distinct from the destructive tapping practised in the United States, may later on be found feasible in pine areas too inaccessible to be worked for lumber.

85. The rosewood industry as organized at present is unlikely to expand materially, but the development of the secondary woods in those southern forests in which the rosewood areas occur should cheapen extraction and widen the basis of output.

86. A number of potential forest industries might be added to those described. The silviculture of the fast-growing Balsa woods, which are already being used in some quantity in the United States for insulating purposes, for example, in the manufacture of boxes for the carriage of perishable goods, is the subject of experiment by the Forest Department. Such woods might also achieve importance as a source of cellulose and power alcohol. Fibre-plants of the forest, such as the Silk Grass (Arghan), may one day attain an economic value, and the field of medicinal plants, gums, spices, &c., is practically untouched. Castilloa rubber occurs naturally, but the boom has failed to induce any revival of the former tapping industry. Planted Para rubber grows well enough, but the deficiency and high cost of labour would militate against the successful establishment and working of plantations.

Agriculture.

87. During 1926, agricultural produce amounted to 13.7 per cent. of the total value of exports of domestic produce, of which coconuts represented 9.4 per cent. and bananas and plantains 3.4 per cent. The banana industry is on the decline owing to Panama disease, and the only hope of restoring its prosperity lies in the introduction of a variety of the fruit which will resist the disease. Sugar is produced on a small scale, but apparently with fair profit, by a number of small mills in the Toledo and Corozal Districts. There is a large acreage of land excellently suited for sugar growing, and a central factory should be a profitable undertaking. Labour supply is the only difficult factor.

88. Slow but sure steps were made during the year towards the development of agriculture. The increasing demand in the markets of the world for the produce of tropical countries cannot but fail to be reflected in increased attention being paid to the agricultural resources of the Colony. Satisfactory progress has been made in the development of the property on which the Industrial School has been established. Upon this property there is a small grove of grape fruit trees which were planted some thirteen years ago. These trees bear luxuriantly a fruit of exceptionally high quality. Shipments of this fruit to Canada, Bermuda, and London have proved profitable and, in spite of primitive methods of grading and imperfect facilities for packing the fruit, the reports which have been received upon the condition in which the fruit arrived at the markets to which it was sent have been most encouraging. As might be expected, some shipments failed, but careful records were kept of the condition of the fruit when it left the packing shed, and the information gained by these failures has been invaluable. A British Honduras Government Fruit Marketing Agency was established during the year.

89. The cassava or tapioca plant is grown by the Carib communities in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, and the cultivation of this plant and arrowroot can be greatly increased provided that profitable markets can be found for the flour which is produced from the tuberous roots of these plants.

90. The Colony is essentially one for the peasant proprietor and small farmer engaged in "mixed farming" and marketing their produce co-operatively.

Marine Products.

91. Brief reference may be made to the marine products of the Colony. The rock lobster canning industry produced 1.0 per cent. by value of the total export of the Colony. The tortoise-shell industry remained steady with a percentage of 1.2. The sponge industry has been the subject of recent examination by an expert and is believed to have a promising future.

VI.—BANKS AND BANKING FACILITIES.

92. The Royal Bank of Canada maintains a branch in Belize. It is the only banking institution in the Colony. It is not allowed to circulate its own notes. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. The details of the operation of the Government Savings Bank have been reported under Head III. —Government Finance.

VII.—EDUCATION.

93. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational Church schools. Rules made by the Board of Education were amended in 1923, effecting a change in the method of making grants-in-aid to denominational schools.

94. The Compulsory Attendance Law of 1915 has not yet, for various reasons, been applied to all parts of the Colony. The maximum age limit for attendance under the compulsory attendance law is twelve years; but there are now three areas in which it has been raised to fourteen years, the towns of Belize, Orange Walk, and the village of San Estevan; the two latter places are on the New River. The law has been temporarily suspended, pending amendments. Grants-in-aid from General Revenue are based, principally, on the teaching staffs of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendances of children between the ages of five and sixteen years. A small attendance grant *per capita* is also made; an efficiency grant is made annually on the results of the school examinations. There are other grants. The total grants-in-aid in 1926 amounted to $61,159.50, which included teachers' salaries, grants to pupil-teachers, needlework, agriculture, building, and furniture. In most of the schools in the Colony a small fee is charged; but payment is not compulsory

and the receipts are small. The amount collected in the year under review was $1,403.86. The number of aided schools in operation in 1926 was 71, as against 69 in 1925. In Belize District there are 25, in Corozal District 12, in Orange Walk District 9, in Cayo District 7, in Stann Creek District 8, and in Toledo District 10.

95. The average total number of pupils on the rolls in aided schools was 6,768; of these, 3,726 were boys and 3,042 girls, and the average daily attendance was 5,028, or 74 per centum of the roll.

96. During the year there were employed 136 teachers, 81 being certificated and 55 pupil-teachers. The majority of the former are obtained from the pupil-teachers' class, a method which, because of the absence of any provision for normal training, is far from satisfactory.

97. There are a few elementary schools in the Colony which are unaided. These have a total of about 600 pupils on the rolls, with an average attendance of about 500.

98. The 1926 exhibition was held on 15th September, when 22 schools, whose exhibits numbered 451, competed. The number of competing schools may appear small, but many schools did not participate because of their remote situation and the lack of facilities of communication and transportation.

Secondary Education.

99. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. The schools are unaided by the Government except to the extent of a few hundred dollars paid as bonus on passes at the Cambridge Local Examinations. The amount paid for the year 1926 was $950. These schools have a total roll of about 600, and the average attendance is 500, but only about one-half of these receive secondary education.

Technical Education.

100. There is little technical education or vocational training undertaken in the Colony. Needlework, however, forms part of the curriculum in the girls' schools.

101. The establishment of the Government Industrial School for Boys at Pomona will fill a long-felt want.

VIII.—LEGISLATION.

102. During the year 1926 thirty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council, of which the following are those of more general interest :—

Ordinance No. 1 *of* 1926—providing for the registration in the Colony of Letters Patent granted in the United Kingdom.

Ordinance No. 10 *of* 1926—amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, and imposing an additional import duty payable during the year 1926-27 at the rate of 10 per centum on the amount of certain *ad valorem* import duties.

Ordinance No. 19 *of* 1926—making provision for the carriage of goods by sea. This law establishes the responsibilities, liabilities, rights and immunities attached to carriers under Bills of Lading, and is based on a draft convention, for the unification of certain rules relating to Bills of Lading, by the International Conference on Maritime Law held at Brussels in October, 1922.

Ordinance No. 32 *of* 1926—for the protection and control of forests and forest produce. This Ordinance is an amplification of the Forest Trust Ordinance, and extends the powers and duties of the officers of the Forest Trust.

IX.—COMMUNICATIONS.

103. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

104. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. There were occasional sailings to New York and New Orleans by vessels of the Munson Line. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas, and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

105. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

Roads.

106. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. Satisfactory progress was made in linking up Belize with Corozal in the north by a road which it is hoped will eventually provide "all weather" communication for light traffic.

X.—PUBLIC WORKS.

107. No new work of any magnitude was undertaken during the year.

108. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost $13,024.

109. The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled $30,731.

110. During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled $17,130.

XI.—SHIPPING.

111. A summary of the shipping trade distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British from foreign nationalities is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 635,901, a decrease of 7,262 as compared with the previous year.

Entered.

Nationality.	*Sailing Vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor Boats.*	*Total Tonnage.*
British	4,789	104,049	108,838
United States of America ...	292	116,549	116,841
Other	8,102	82,887	90,989
	13,183	303,485	316,668

Cleared.

Nationality.	*Sailing Vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor Boats.*	*Total Tonnage.*
British	4,899	107,052	111,951
United States of America ...	198	116,588	116,786
Other	7,643	82,858	90,501
	12,740	306,498	319,238

112. The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

	Inwards.	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1922	257,606	258,244	515,850
1923	269,799	267,132	536,931
1924	295,350	297,252	592,602
1925	315,505	327,658	643,163
1926	316,668	319,238	635,906

113. Four sailing and five motor vessels were registered at the port of Belize during the year, the total registered tonnage of these amounting to 95 tons.

XII.—POSTAL, TELEGRAPH, AND TELEPHONE SERVICES.

Post Office.

114. At the end of the year there were twenty-six post offices established in the Colony, six of which were money order offices.

115. The total number of postal articles dealt with in the mails during the year was 905,060. As compared with 1925, while the parcels business with the United States of America still looms largest, business with Great Britain and Canada shows improvement on the whole, as reflected in the money order and other transactions. The reduction in cost effected by the British Preferential Tariff is apparently having some effect though it has not proved a sufficient offset against the advantages of proximity and regularity of transport possessed by the United States.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

116. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices; the same as in 1925, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

117. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 307 subscribers.

Radio Telegraphs.

118. The installations in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (A) 25 kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18; (B) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 metre and 1,500 metre wave lengths; all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,500 metre wave.

119. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

120. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on 1,500 metre wave, and 400 on 600 metre wave.

121. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.00 hours and 23.10 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,500 metre wave length.

122. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

123. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

13.00 to 14.30 hrs.
15.00 to 15.30 hrs.
15.45 to 16.15 hrs.
17.00 to 19.30 hrs.
21.15 to 21.45 hrs.
23.30 to 01.30 hrs.
02.00 to 04.00 hrs.

XIII.—OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS.

124. A handbook, prepared by Messrs. M. S. Metzgen and H. E. C. Cain, and published by the West India Committee, has been in considerable demand, indicating that there is a growing interest in the Colony. The question of revising the handbook and republishing it is being considered.

125. There is an Annual Report on Trade, by the Collector of Customs, and an official Gazette printed and published weekly at the Government Printing Office.

E. W. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

21st October, 1927.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1927.

(With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1928).

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PREFACE.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from the rapids of Gracias a Dios on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east.

Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about four feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek district. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo district, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

History.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archaeologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilised to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with

the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. "King George", to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by Treaty, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790-1797 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament, "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law," passed before 1889, extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable, and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were four unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts : Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health; markets; slaughter-houses; traffic regulation; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts; building construction, &c. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

Languages.

15. English is the official language, but Spanish is spoken in some parts of the Colony, especially in the north, while there are many different dialects spoken by the Maya Indians. In the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts the Carib language prevails.

Currency.

16. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5 cent pieces, and bronze 1 cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1928, the value of the currency notes in circulation amounted to $357,102.

The Commissioners of Currency on the same date held gold to the extent of $282,249 and British and Colonial securities amounting to $134,937 cost price.

The value of the reserve on 31st March, 1928, was thus $60,084 in excess of the value of notes in circulation.

Weights and Measures.

17. The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quartro	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Mecate	25 yds. square.
1 Vara	11·12 of a yard.

I.—GENERAL.

18. On 19th November, 1927, the Governor and Lady Burdon returned to the Colony after a short visit to Guatemala, during which His Excellency took the opportunity of discussing with His Majesty's Minister and the Guatemalan authorities various matters of common interest. During His Excellency's absence the Government was administered by the Honourable E. W. Evans, Colonial Secretary.

19. On 30th December the City of Belize was honoured by a visit from Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh in his famous monoplane "Spirit of St. Louis." The distinguished visitor, who was on a good-will mission through Central America, arrived here from Guatemala, and was accorded a fitting reception. He left two days later for San Salvador.

20. In March another expedition from the British Museum, under Captain T. A. Joyce, O.B.E., M.A., Deputy Keeper of Ceramics and Ethnography, visited the Colony and continued the investigation, started last year, of the Maya ruins of Lubaantun in the Toledo District and Xunantunich in the Cayo District. The Colony abounds in most interesting ruins of the ancient Maya

civilization, and recently there were three exploration parties at work, one from the British Museum under Captain H. Gruning, another from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, under Mr. Eric Thompson, and a third by Mr. Gregory Mason on behalf of the Museum of the American Indian, Haye Foundation, of New York. A considerable number of objects of stone, pottery, and shell were found and, under the law, one-half of the findings remain the property of the Colony. The objects comprised in the Colony's share were forwarded to the Field Museum for investigation and classification, after which they will probably be sent to the British Museum, for custody, pending the establishment of a local museum.

21. The Colony was represented at the Colonial Office Conference held in London during May, 1927, by Mr. J. N. Oliphant, M.B.E., Conservator of Forests.

22. Another visit in connection with the re-establishment of the sponge fishery at Turneffe Islands was made, during the year, by Mr. L. R. Crawshay, M.A., the Research Officer in the British West Indies. Turneffe has now been purchased by the Government and the foundation for a scientifically organized sponge industry is now established. A Laboratory and Research Station has since been constructed and, through the assistance of the Colonial Research Committee, Mr. Crawshay's headquarters will be transferred, temporarily, to Turneffe.

23. The Government Industrial School for Boys, at Pomona Ridge, Stann Creek, was formally opened by the Governor on 12th March, 1927. Besides the main building there is a school chapel, machine shop, carpenter's shop, sugar house, and quarters for the Principal and for the Clerk and Schoolmaster. The total area of the grounds is about 650 acres and on 31st March, 1928, there were 48 acres under cultivation, of which 26 represent the grape-fruit orchard, the remainder being devoted to tropical fruits and vegetables. There were 44 inmates at the end of the year.

24. In September Mr. L. B. Freeston of the West Indian Department of the Colonial Office visited the Colony and saw as much of the Colony as was possible in a short but very strenuous visit.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

25. The revenue collected during the financial year ended 31st March, 1928, amounted to $1,068,212.19, which was $28,445.19 more than the Estimate and $48,220.11 less than the amount collected in the previous financial year. The principal decreases over 1926-27 were under Customs, Revenues of Government Property, and Miscellaneous Receipts. The decrease in Customs revenue is due to the fact that the Customs revenue for 1926-27 was above average.

Expenditure.

26. The expenditure for 1927-28, which was estimated at $1,028,572, amounted to $1,112,083.02. This expenditure exceeded that of 1926-27 by $71,592·91 and exceeded the Estimates by $83,511·02.

27. The revenue and expenditure totals for the last five years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1923-24	1,093,149	1,203,220
1924-25	938,969	920,998
1925-26	996,287	971,197
1926-27	1,116,432	1,040,490
1927-28	1,068,212	1,112,083

Assets and Liabilities.

28. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1928, were $1,611,299·47, and the liabilities $1,400,641·78, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $210,657·69. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds, and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed loan. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local bank and with the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London, unissued stores, investments in gilt-edged securities, and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Savings Bank and to the Crown Agents for the Colonies. The cash balances available amounted to $56,565·93.

29. The Colony possesses further assets in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two and a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony. The revenue derived from Crown lands during 1927-28 amounted to $44,924.46.

Public Debt.

30. At the close of the financial year the funded public debt of the Colony stood at $746,734. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $118,184, as compared with $104,340 the previous year. Of the loan of $1,250,000, authorized by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, to meet the cost of certain public works and Forestry Development, the sum of $917,002 has been expended to date.

Government Savings Bank.

31. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The Bank had a sum of $195,200.29 to the credit of 1,399 depositors on 31st March, 1928, against $177,255.58 to the credit of 1,414 depositors in the previous year.

The amount invested as at 31st March, 1928, was $175,121.50 and the interest on investments was $7,145.56. Interest is paid at the rate of 3 per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1927-28 was $5,089.08.

III.—PRODUCTION.

32. The productive industries of the Colony, in order of importance, are forestry, agriculture and fisheries, no minerals having as yet been discovered in paying quantities. The relative production of these three industries may be gauged by the percentage exports, by value, of each class of produce which in the year under report were as follows :—

Forest produce	89
Agricultural produce	10
Marine produce	1

These figures relate only to produce of domestic origin.

33. The accompanying statement* shows in comprehensive form the exports of the important classes of produce of domestic origin to regular markets during the five calendar years ending with 1927. Minor produce in which there is no constant trade, and occasional shipments to destinations to which regular supply has not been maintained, except in the case of secondary hardwoods and pine, have been excluded from consideration in preparing the statement.

34. The dominance of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla King*), cedar (*Cedrela mexicana Roem*) and chicle in the category of forest produce, and of coconuts, copra, and bananas in that of agricultural produce, is indicated by the percentage figures, based on exports of 1927, which appear in the last column of the statement.

35. The upward trend of the demand for round mahogany in the American market during the quinquennium is very marked and connotes corresponding development in that section of the sawmilling and veneer industry in the United States which specialises in this wood. A substantial part of the output of that industry finds its way to Europe, and thus the Colony is becoming more and more a source of raw material for a foreign manufacturing industry which depends to an important extent upon the market of the United Kingdom for disposal of its manufactured products. This tendency is regrettable from the standpoint of Empire trade, and means a steady increase in the Colony's economic dependence on the United States; but it is difficult to see a remedy, unless British capital can be induced to interest itself to a greater extent in the extractive and manufacturing branches of the forest industry. There has been during the quinquennium a steady growth in local production of mahogany lumber, but this industry is as yet on too small

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* *See* Appendix, page 22.

a scale to have an appreciable influence on the situation, and its development is somewhat hampered by limited shipping facilities. The market for mahogany logs in the United Kingdom during the five years covered by the statement shows no more than ordinary fluctuations: the general tendency nowadays is for the poorer grades of wood to be displaced in favour of the mahogany lumber manufactured in, and re-exported from, the United States. Towards the end of 1927 a reaction was experienced in the general market for mahogany, which is likely to affect the Colony's trade in 1928: the present indications suggest, however, that the depression will not be prolonged.

36. The trade in cedar is not one capable of much expansion independently of the mahogany trade, as the two species are extracted together and cedar is of more sporadic occurrence than mahogany. It will be observed that the market for cedar in the United Kingdom has steadily declined, while the demand from the United States shows as yet somewhat erratic signs of increase.

37. Future supplies of the above woods depend on extended transport lines and improved methods of extraction, as most of the readily accessible mahogany lands have been seriously depleted of merchantable timber. Large areas of cut-over land bearing stocks of generally immature wood remain however, and the problem of organizing these on a basis of sustained yield has been the chief concern of the Forest Department since its inception.

38. Exports of chicle of domestic origin show no very marked fluctuations during the last five years. The productive capacity of most of the forest areas yielding gum of first quality has been seriously impaired by destructive tapping, and a drop in the output of superior gum is inevitable. Investigation of the possibilities of regulated treatment as a forest crop of the sapodilla tree (*Achras Zapota L.*) from which the gum is derived, and of less destructive methods of bleeding, continues. Fairly large resources of sapodilla yielding an inferior grade of gum remain in the western highlands of the Colony, and it is not impossible that chemical research on the treatment of the latex may result in improvement of the quality sufficiently to enable this gum to compete in the market more successfully than hitherto.

39. Rosewood (*Dalbergia Stevensonii Standl.*) continues to be in market demand on a limited scale in the United States, and of late some interest has been shown from the United Kingdom. Difficulties of extraction militate against any very large increase in the production of this wood.

40. Notwithstanding the competition of synthetic dyes, logwood (*Haematoxylon campechanium L.*), once the most important product of the Colony, is still in limited request as a vegetable colourant, but material increase in the demand is unlikely.

41. Considerable market interest continues to be attached to the secondary hardwoods, of which the most important are Santa Maria (*Calophyllum Calaba Jacq.*), Banak (*Virola merendonis Pittier*), and Yemeri (*Vochysia hondurensis Sprague*), and there is no doubt as to the ultimate extension of trade in these woods when the problem of extraction at reasonable cost has been solved. Technical research on qualities and uses is also needed and is being instituted as far and as rapidly as circumstances permit. Shipments are at present limited to trial consignments.

42. The factor of over-production of yellow pine in the Southern States, aggravated by the competition of soft-woods from the Pacific Coast, has led to disappointment of hopes of early and large expansion of the local pine lumber industry. More efficient saw-milling and better marketing arrangements in the neighbouring republics would, however, in all probability enable the industry to establish itself on a modest basis of output.

43. The out-turn of coconuts, the principal agricultural crop grown in the Colony, has been regular and sustained throughout the past five years, and in 1927 contributed 5 per cent. of the total value of forest, agricultural and marine produce. In 1924 and 1925 there was a falling-off in the making of copra, but this has been recovered during the last two years. Shipments of bananas show a gradual unremitting regression owing to the heavy incidence of Panama disease, which has been responsible for much hardship, impedition, and impoverishment amongst the small planters in the banana districts. Private experiments with selected crossed varieties bred for disease resistance and desirable fruit qualities are in progress, and it is greatly to be hoped that these trials will meet with some success.

44. The distillation of rum has been a fairly regular though minor trade; but the growing of cane for sugar, though it is believed that a living can be made, is not now a profitable investment under contemporary local conditions. This has been due in some measure to the falling-off in demand for the low grades of sugar made in the old-fashioned, low-efficiency estate mills and to the need for the establishment of an economical, centralized, and modern plant. There are considerable tracts of sugar land of good ratooning capacity, and with abundant rainfall and a central factory should prove a profitable undertaking.

45. The foundations of the grape-fruit industry were laid concurrently with the inauguration of the Government Industrial School, on whose property an old neglected grove of grafted grape-fruit trees existed. With the restoration of this grove, and from the excellent orchards of an enthusiastic grower in the Stann Creek Valley, the present citrus industry has been initiated. During 1925, 1926, and 1927 regular shipments have been made, on the whole with very fair success, chiefly to England but also to

Bermuda and Canada. Latterly the counsel and advice of the Empire Marketing Board citrus expert who paid a visit to the Colony early in 1928 has been invaluable for the future guidance of this still youthful industry. The verdict with regard to the grafted fruit of Marsh and Duncan variety has been very satisfactory; and the fruit has been stated to be equal to the best grown in any other country. On the grounds of small production costs, comparatively low landed costs in England, and of good quality budded fruit, moderate and careful expansion of the industry is deemed justifiable; but in view of oncoming over-production and price-declension it has been counselled that the industry confine itself to growing the best grafted varieties only, planting at a cautious rate of from 100 to 150 acres per annum, and growing its own nursery trees for distribution to growers.

46. During 1927, in November, a temporary Agricultural Officer, seconded by the Forest Trust, was appointed pending the arrival of an officer trained and qualified in tropical agriculture. In the first instance, attention devolved mainly upon grape-fruit, but subsequently a commencement has been made of a general reconnaissance of the situation in the important and accessible agricultural areas of the Colony.

47. In the lobster-canning industry considerable advancement has been shown during the years 1925, 1926 and 1927. Lobsters are plentiful and abundant, but the industry is at present somewhat arrested by labour difficulties. Hawksbill tortoise shell has remained normal. The sponge waters are now under the control of a Government scientific expert. Disc cuttings of sponges have been planted with a view to propagation at maturity for the establishment of a Government sponge nursery, and for the re-stocking of the somewhat depleted waters. It is believed that the industry has a very promising future.

IV. TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

48. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $9,082,332, as against $8,994,453 during 1926, an increase of $87,879.

49. The following table shows the total trade of the Colony for the five years 1923-27 :—

	1923.	*1924.*	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	4,036,688	3,894,281	4,515,121	5,065,663	4,534,804
Exports	3,196,884	3,337,744	3,576,018	3,928,790	4,547,528
Trade	7,233,572	7,232,025	8,091,139	8,994,453	9,082,332

50. Trade with the Empire has shown gradual but steady progress since the inception of the Preferential Tariff and the Agreement with the Dominion of Canada in 1921. From the table hereunder, which gives comparative percentages of Empire and foreign trades during the years 1920 and 1927, it will be observed

that the percentage of imports has risen from 17.45 to 30.69, an increase of approximately 75 per cent. It is to be regretted that no similar gain is shown in the exports, and the percentage of increase in the trade is therefore reduced to 36.

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	*1927.*	*1920.*	*1927.*	*1920.*	*1927.*
United Kingdom and British Possessions.	17·45	30·69	14·88	13·19	16·17	21·94
United States of America.	60·44	46·15	78·18	81·72	69·31	63·94
Other Countries ...	22·11	23·16	6·94	5·09	14·52	14·12

Imports.

51. Imports decreased by $530,859, the total for 1927 being $4,534,804 as against $5,065,663 in 1926. The imports for 1926 were somewhat abnormal, however, and on comparison with 1925 the total for 1927 shows an increase of $19,683.

52. A comparative statement for the years 1926 and 1927, classified according to groups, is given hereunder :—

Classes.	*1926.*	*1927.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease.*
	$	$	$	$
1. Food, drink and tobacco...	1,710,507	1,662,378	—	48,129
2. Raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured.	1,077,844	943,969	—	133,875
3. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured.	2,258,626	1,883,460	—	375,166
4. Miscellaneous and unclassified.	18,486	7,269	—	11,217
5. Bullion and specie ...	200	37,728	37,528	—
	$5,065,663	$4,534,804	$37,528	$568,387

Exports.

53. The value of the exports amounted to $4,547,528, or $618,738 more than the total for 1926.

54. The following table shows the value of the export trade for 1927 as compared with that of 1926 :—

	1926.	*1927.*	*Increase.*	*Decrease*
	$	$	$	$
Domestic exports ...	1,910,888	2,613,887	702,999	—
Re-exports	2,015,302	1,933,641	—	81,661
Bullion and specie ...	2,600	—	—	2,600
	$3,928,790	$4,547,528	$702,999	$84,261

. 24,726,313 superficial feet of mahogany were exported during 1927. This figure, on deduction of the 25 per cent. added on all "small end, small way" measurements, is reduced to 20,532,230 superficial feet. The quantity exported in 1926 was 18,745,537 superficial feet and is less than that of 1927 by 5,980.776 superficial feet.

55. The details of the exports, compared with 1926, are as follows :—

	1926. *s. ft.*	*1927.* *s. ft.*	*Increase.* *s. ft.*
Domestic produce—			
To United Kingdom	1,513,487	2,411,826	898,339
To United States of America.	13,738,928	18,689.523	4,950,595
	15,252,415	21,101,349	5,848,934
Re-exports—			
To United States of America.	3,493,122	3,624,964	131,842
	18,745,537	24,726,313	5,980,776

56. Cedar exports showed an increase of 440,637 superficial feet over 1926, the total being 733,108 superficial feet.

57. The distribution of the exports during the years 1924-1927 is shown hereunder :—

	1924.	*Per cent.*	*1925.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom	259,345	7·77	417,332	11·67
Canada	16,864	·51	35,464	·99
Other British Possessions ...	183,965	5·51	12,638	·36
United States of America ...	2,642,033	79·15	2,812,056	78·64
Other Countries	235,537	7·06	298,528	8·34

	1926.	*Per cent.*	*1927.*	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom	245,502	6·25	357,618	7·86
Canada	206,635	5·26	145,759	3·21
Other British Possessions ...	2,565	·07	96,620	2·12
United States of America ...	3,028,006	81·65	3,716,299	81·72
Other Countries	266,082	6·77	231,232	5·09

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

58. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor-vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government, and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

59. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward-bound only) by the steamers of the United

Fruit Company. There were occasional sailings to New York and New Orleans by vessels of the Munson Line. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas, and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

60. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

Roads.

61. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. Satisfactory progress was made in linking up Belize with Corozal in the north by a road which it is hoped will eventually provide "all weather" communication for light traffic.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

62. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are about 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices: the same as in 1926, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

63. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 320 subscribers.

Radio Telegraphs.

64. The installations in use at the Radio Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (A) 25 kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18; (B) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 metre and 1,500 metre wave lengths: all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,500 metre wave.

65. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

66. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on 1,500 metre wave, and 400 on 600 metre wave.

67. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.00 hours and 23.10 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,500 metre wave length.

68. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

69. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

13.00 to 14.30 hrs.
15.00 to 15.30 hrs.
15.45 to 16.15 hrs.
17.00 to 19.30 hrs.
21.15 to 21.45 hrs.
23.30 to 01.30 hrs.
02.00 to 04.00 hrs.

Shipping.

70. A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British from foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 679,317, an increase of 43,416, as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor-boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	4,777	109,011	113,788
United States of America ...	—	70,394	70,394
Other	2,489	154,932	157,421
Totals ...	7,266	334,337	341,603

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor-boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	4,860	106,042	110,902
United States of America ...	—	67,575	67,575
Other	2,735	156,502	159,237
Totals ...	7,595	330,119	337,714

71. The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

	Inwards.	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1923	267,799	267,132	536,931
1924	295,350	297,252	597,602
1925	315,505	327,658	643,163
1926	316,663	319,238	635,906
1927	341,063	337,714	679,317

72. Two sailing and three motor boats were registered during the year, the total register tonnage of these amounted to nineteen tons.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

73. Justice is administered by the Supreme Court of British Honduras and by the District Commissioners' Courts, subject to appeal to and review by the Supreme Court.

74. During the year, the Supreme Court dealt with 48 civil matters, as against 65 in the preceding year, and heard 11 actions and 2 appeals. No petitions in bankruptcy were presented during the year. The usual Sessions were held at Corozal in March, June, September, and December.

75. Forty-six criminal cases came before the Court, excluding reviews of judgments in the lower Court.

76. The following figures show the convictions for the more serious crimes:—

Murder	Nil
Manslaughter	3
Arson	Nil
Forgery	1
Perjury	Nil
Housebreaking	Nil
Burglary	Nil
Rape and attempted rape	Nil
Indecent assault	1
Grevious harm	4

Of the total number of persons accused of crime, 63 per cent. were convicted.

Police.

77. The strength of the British Honduras Police Force on 31st December, 1927, was 3 officers, 32 non-commissioned officers, and 106 constables.

In addition to their ordinary Police duties, members of the Force, when stationed in the out-districts, act as officers of customs, telephone operators, postal clerks, keepers of prisons, public vaccinators, attesting officers under the labour law, and various other capacities.

The expenditure on the Force during the financial year 1927-28 was $117,003.63. The cost of Police per man is $829.81; the cost per head of population is $2.38.

Prisons.

78. There is one central prison at Belize and there are five local prisons, one in each of the out-districts. During the year, 162 persons were committed to the Belize Prison, one of whom was to serve a sentence of five years or more. The daily population of the Belize Prison averaged 53. Six deaths occurred among the prisoners.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

79. No public work of any magnitude, other than of local interest, was undertaken during the year. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost $14,449.79. The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled $31,861.15. During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled $24,424.87.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

80. The general health of the Colony was good. No cases of quarantinable disease occurred in the Colony during the year.

81. Whooping cough was epidemic during the year and there were 13 deaths from this disease. Influenza was also prevalent and one death was registered in the Belize District. Cancer was responsible for 20 deaths or 3.8 per cent. of the total certified deaths.

82. There has been no increase in the number of cases of malaria treated in the public hospitals; on the contrary there was a decrease. The types of the disease most frequently occurring are the sub-tertian or Aestivo Autumnal and the tertian. There was only one case of blackwater fever: this was in the Orange Walk Hospital and proved fatal.

83. There were 83 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, with 48 deaths. The number of cases of this disease is steadily increasing, the pulmonary form being the most common. Ankylostomiasis is extremely prevalent in the country districts of the Colony. The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in the Colony necessitates the storage of rain-water in vats, tanks, barrels, and other receptacles with consequent breeding of stegomyia mosquitoes. The Sanitary Department, however, maintains an active campaign in mosquito destruction.

The destruction of crabs by means of Cyanogas was continued during the year, with satisfactory results.

Vital Statistics.

84. The population of the Colony at the end of 1927 is estimated at 49,249. In all the Districts there is an excess of births over deaths, and there is an increase in the population of each District. The birth-rate of the Colony is 36.4 per thousand and the death-rate 21.1 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate for the Colony was 137, as compared with 141 in 1926.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

85. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are, generally, police constables, and in school areas where there are no constables

the law is not applied. Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based, principally, on the teaching staff of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years. Government contribution to the cost of elementary education for the year was $71,468.98. The cost to Government, based on average attendance, was $12.71.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 73; one hundred and thirty-nine teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 7,218, of whom 3,757 were boys and 3,461 girls.

Secondary Education.

86. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. In Belize there are six schools, including St. John's College conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at the annual Cambridge Local examinations.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

87. During the financial year 1927-28, 163 applications for leases of 3,901 acres of agricultural land and 123 applications for leases of 126 town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. Five hundred and sixty-five acres of agricultural land were sold to 16 applicants for $2,070.12 and 21 town and village lots were sold to 21 applicants for $2,873.62. One hundred and twenty-seven acres of agricultural land and 16 town and village lots were granted free. Eighty-four titles for town and village lots and three titles for 81 acres of agricultural land were issued in addition to the lease of the large but unknown area of Turneffe Islands, the coconut-bearing land which has been leased to Capt. R. E. Foote for a rent of $3,000.00 a year.

88. The trigonometrical survey, which was commenced in 1926-27, was continued. Five main stations were selected, cleared, and beaconed, the check base at Garbutt's Falls was located and cleared, and the positions of the base extension stations were selected and cleared.

89. Surveys to determine the lines of the Belize-Corozal road and the Sibun canal were undertaken, and these works are now in progress.

90. The re-opening of part of the western frontier line, the re-survey of the town of Punta Gorda, and two surveys of large estates were commenced and were in progress at the end of the year.

91. The geological survey of the Colony by Mr. L. H. Ower was completed and a paper on the Colony, together with a valuable geological map, has been published in the Journal of the Royal Geographical Society. Mr. Ower's report on the Geology of British Honduras has been published recently.

XI.—LABOUR.

92. The slump in the mahogany market during 1926 has had its effect on the labour situation this year, and employers have been conservative in the number of men engaged for work during 1927. Regarding chicle operations, there was a slight increase in the number employed.

93. The following table shows the number of men employed under the Labour Ordinance during the hiring season 1927-28 :—

Timber operations	855
Agricultural	248
Total ...	1,103

There is no immigration labour.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

94. Nineteen Ordinances were passed during the year, some of them being amending Ordinances, which call for no special comment.

95. The more important new Ordinances are :—

No. 7—1927.—To regulate the right to search for, mine and work minerals, and for other purposes relating thereto.

No. 9—1927.—To provide for the prevention of corruption.

No. 14—1927.—To make provision for the registration of persons practising Optometry in British Honduras.

No. 19—1927.—To provide for the collection of certain estate duties.

Climate.

96. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

97. The highest rainfall registered in 1927 was, as usual, at Punta Gorda in the Toledo District, which had a total of 137.40 inches. The lowest rainfall was at El Cayo in the Cayo District, which had a total of 43.07 inches. The annual rainfall at Belize was 68.61 inches.

98. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 18th August when the thermometer registered 88.0° F. and 11th January when it was at 56.5° F.

E. W. EVANS,
Colonial Secretary.

12th October, 1928.

APPENDIX.

Exports of Produce.

Product.	Destination.	1923.		1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		Percentage by value of all Produce for 1927.
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Mahogany Logs. (S. ft.)	United Kingdom	2,174,461	255,423	2,123,375	192,455	3,087,255	362,730	1,513,487	189,186	2,411,826	265,771	—
	U.S.A. ...	4,900,676	491,078	8,872,668	896,263	6,312,979	660,985	13,736,928	1,189,328	18,689,523	1,730,775	—
	Total ...	7,075,137	746,501	10,996,043	1,088,718	9,400,234	1,023,715	15,250,415	1,378,514	21,101,349	1,996,546	76·71
Mahogany Lumber.	United Kingdom	30,192	4,083	45,029	4,052	80,208	9,772	24,613	2,460	232,295	25,854	—
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,000	160	18,297	1,105	—
	Bahamas ...	—	—	2,097	377	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Bermuda ...	2,554	346	9,201	1,656	106	20	—	—	8,755	1,461	—
	Jamaica ...	5,075	609	5,096	697	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canada ...	1,000	100	706	141	64,878	11,010	124,106	22,598	67,166	11,740	—
	Total ...	38,821	5,138	62,129	6,923	145,192	20,802	149,719	25,218	326,513	40,160	1·54
Cedar Logs.	United Kingdom	216,477	23,849	89,624	8,494	66,798	6,915	37,642	4,705	42,629	4,577	—
	U.S.A. ...	239,986	23,241	467,429	45,858	214,052	23,148	244,308	20,431	689,210	47,002	—
	Total ...	456,463	47,090	557,053	54,352	280,850	30,063	281,950	25,136	731,839	51,579	1·98
Banak ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	63,219	1,900	377,920	10,356	355,256	12,434	10,451	143	0·01
Santa Maria	U.S.A. ...	—	—	21,758	650	111,716	2,793	159,103	5,569	540	32	—
Yemeri ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	1,307	40	40,274	1,004	3,451	121	10,082	504	0·02

Other Hardwoods ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	2,119	530	—	—	—	—	—
Rosewood ... (Tons)	U.S.A. ...	62	1,720	130	3,662	248	5,362	76	2,315	127	2,925	0·11
Pine Lumber (S. ft.)	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	30,621	1,558	130,722	6,165	—	—	—
	Honduras...	—	—	—	—	88,696	3,816	91,050	3,968	—	—	—
	Mexico ...	—	—	—	—	17,732	1,050	73,072	3,592	—	—	—
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	137,049	6,424	294,841	13,725	—	—	—
Logwood ... (Tons)	United Kingdom	665	17,125	675	14,560	269	6,725	186	4,510	332	8,405	—
	U.S.A. ...	434	13,274	637	19,114	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	France ...	—	—	—	—	340	8,500	451	11,271	—	—	—
	Total ...	1,099	30,399	1,312	33,674	609	15,225	637	15,781	332	8,405	0·32
Chicle (Lb.)	United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,738	4,382	—
	U.S.A. ...	363,174	155,096	306,167	139,301	334,892	154,875	233,076	100,560	424,354	189,374	—
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	26,770	11,383	26,083	10,862	—
	Total ...	363,174	155,096	306,167	139,301	334,892	154,875	259,846	111,943	460,175	204,618	7·86
Forest Produce ...	Total ...	—	—	985,944	—	1,329,220	1,271,149	—	1,590,756	—	2,304,912	88·55
Coconuts ... (No.)	Canada ...	909,775	15,468	522,950	10,777	955,650	21,970	2,180,535	41,646	2,623,955	49,370	—
	U.S.A. ...	5,054,931	100,663	4,564,284	111,343	4,786,508	113,926	3,322,025	67,662	3,290,079	80,819	—
	Total ...	5,964,706	116,131	5,087,234	122,120	5,742,158	135,896	5,502,560	109,308	5,914,034	130,189	5·00
Copra (Lb.)	United Kingdom	231,553	11,000	339,374	16,409	—	—	417,433	18,810	259,683	12,984	—
	U.S.A. ...	1,599,532	63,981	250,923	10,791	442,178	19,002	781,248	39,085	1,296,547	62,142	—
	Mexico ...	—	—	—	—	234,140	9,749	287,510	11,449	136,718	4,435	—
	Total ...	1,831,085	74,981	590,297	27,200	676,318	28,751	1,489,221	69,344	1,692,948	79,561	3·05

Exports of Produce.—*continued.*

Product.	*Destination.*	*1923.*		*1924.*		*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1927.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Bananas ... (Bunches)	U.S.A. ...	332,500	105,105	265,957	91,006	269,795	99,091	161,281	53,861	112,640	42,619	1·64
Plantains ... (No.)	U.S.A. ...	724,100	8,442	773,500	8,411	1,453,135	16,623	998,400	10,831	210,800	2,266	0·09
Rum (Gallons)	Honduras...	5,905	6,202	7,005	7,459	1,540	1,540	318	318	5,758	5,987	—
	Nicaragua	2,095	1,738	3,066	3,103	4,256	4,256	5,718	5,738	1,330	1,299	—
	Total ...	8,000	7,940	10,071	10,562	5,796	5,796	6,066	6,086	7,088	7,286	0·28
Grape-fruit (No.)	United Kingdom	—	—	—	—	1,302	62	122,946	4,232	69,998	2,387	—
	Bermuda ...	—	—	—	—	15,278	627	51,272	1,631	58,310	2,589	—
	Canada ...	66,698	1,633	3,738	155	50,503	1,978	144,214	4,896	59,830	2,604	—
	Total ...	66,698	1,633	3,738	155	67,083	2,667	318,432	10,759	188,138	7,580	0·29
Agricultural Produce ...	Total ...	—	314,232	—	259,451	—	288,824	—	260,189	—	269,501	10·35
Lobsters, Canned (Cases)	U.S.A. ...	—	1,660	498	2,718	3,827	19,595	2,249	18,888	2,922	15,952	0·61
Tortoiseshell, Hawksbill (Lb.)	United Kingdom	1,740	10,459	3,061	20,211	2,798	19,361	2,974	16,957	2,984	12,414	0·49
Sponges, Raw (Lb.)	U.S.A. ...	1,509	1,362	896	695	247	193	333	218	—	—	—
Marine Produce ...	Total ...	—	13,481	—	23,624	—	39,149	—	36,063	—	28,366	1·10
ALL PRODUCE	Total ...	—	1,313,657	—	1,612,298	—	1,599,122	—	1,887,008	—	2,602,779	100·00

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BRITISH HONDURAS

REPORT FOR 1928

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1928.

(With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1929).

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GEOGRAPHY.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about five feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately-owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek district. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo district, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate, as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

HISTORY.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archaeologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilised to have an exact system of chronology. It is even thought nowadays that the civilization of Central America is older than that of Babylon or Assyria.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects

of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of the Kings of England and Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. *King George*, to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In July, 1670, Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by Treaty, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the settlement amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged

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all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were then put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790-1797 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1889 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as " The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all Ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were four unofficial members.

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11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts : Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name ; the Corozal District ; the Orange Walk District ; the Cayo District ; the Stann Creek District ; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health ; markets ; slaughter-houses ; traffic regulation ; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts ; building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

LANGUAGES.

15. English is the official language, but Spanish is spoken in some parts of the Colony, especially in the north, while there are many different dialects spoken by the Maya Indians. In the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts the Carib language prevails.

CURRENCY.

16. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces, and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. On 31st March, 1929, the value of the currency notes in circulation amounted to $521,557. The Commissioners of Currency on the same date held gold to the extent of $386,620 and British and Colonial securities amounting to $134,937 cost price.

The value of the reserve on 31st March, 1929, was thus equivalent to the value of notes in circulation.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

17. The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Mecate	25 yds. square.
1 Vara	11.12 of a yard.

I.—GENERAL.

18. On 24th September, 1928, the Governor and Lady Burdon returned to the Colony after five months' absence on leave. During His Excellency's absence the Government was administered by the Honourable E. W. Evans, Colonial Secretary.

19. Through the assistance of the Empire Marketing Board, the Colony was visited in February by Mr. H. Clark Powell, Professor of Horticulture, Transvaal University College, Pretoria, in connexion with the development of the grapefruit industry of the Colony. In his report he states that " British Honduras produces grapefruit that is of the first quality and appearance ; there is no better grapefruit produced in any country," and it is most gratifying to record that this Colony was awarded the Gold and Silver Medals in respect of grapefruit exhibited in October, 1928, at the Imperial Fruit Show, Manchester. As a result of this report and of the success achieved, the area under high-grade fruit has increased ten times in the past three years and will continue to expand with the utmost rapidity that nature and available man power will permit.

20. The annual Maya Exploration Expedition from the British Museum arrived in February and continued the investigation, started three years ago, of the Maya ruins of Lubaantum and Chumukha in the Toledo District and Xunantunich in the Cayo District. The Colony abounds in most interesting ruins of the

ancient Maya civilization and during the year two American parties, one from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and the other from the Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation, New York, have been working successfully near the western frontier in the neighbourhood of El Cayo.

21. Colonel A. Mudge, C.M.G., Inspector-General of the West Indian Local Forces and Officer Commanding the Troops, visited the Colony in February, and Mr. J. L. Wilson Goode, His Majesty's Trade Commissioner in the British West Indies, visited the Colony in March.

22. The re-establishment of the sponge fishery at Turneffe continued during the year under the supervision of Mr. L. H. Crawshay, M.A., Research Officer in the British West Indies, whose headquarters was transferred, temporarily, to Turneffe, and the progress recorded has been most satisfactory. The rate of growth, the quality and the shape of the young sponges have exceeded expectations.

23. During March an Infant Welfare League was formed. This is a purely voluntary Institution, supported by public subscriptions, and is doing excellent work. Unfortunately, the extension of the work of the League to parts of the Colony other than the capital is prevented by lack of funds. It is, perhaps, a significant fact that the infantile mortality rate for Belize has been appreciably reduced since the inception of the organization.

24. On the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday the Honourable S. Cuthbert, Member of the Executive Council, was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, Civil Division, and Miss L. M. Roberts, Matron of the Belize Hospital, was made a Member of the Order.

25. Through arrangements made by the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture at Trinidad, the Colony was visited by Dr. C. W. Wardlaw, Ph.D., D.Sc., Plant Pathologist to the Empire Marketing Board. His mission was the investigation of banana disease, and during his stay he visited the Stann Creek Valley and other areas under cultivation.

26. A co-operative Agricultural Society was formed during the year with the object of promoting and encouraging agriculture. In November an Agricultural Exhibition held by the Society proved a great success. The exhibits were numerous and good and showed how many there are desirous of making a business of agriculture and truck gardening.

27. In order to organize the citrus fruit export, assist and stimulate the other existing agricultural activities and develop agriculture as a major industry, the appointment of a Government Agricultural Officer was decided on and the officer arrived in the Colony in November.

28. The Colony was visited, during September, by Mr. H. C. Sampson, C.I.E., Economic Botanist at Kew Gardens, and in his "Report on Development of Agriculture in British Honduras" he gives a very favourable forecast as to the possibility of success for economic agriculture if established on sound lines.

29. The section of the Burdon Canal between Jones Lagoon and the Belize River was completed during the year, and an inland waterway connecting the Sibun and Belize rivers was thus provided. The section between the Lagoon and Sibun River has since been completed.

30. A second edition of the "Brief Sketch of British Honduras," by His Excellency Sir John Burdon, was published during the year.

31. The Government Industrial School for Boys, at Pomona in the Stann Creek Valley, which was opened in March, 1927, continued to progress. Of the total area of 650 acres, 63 acres were under cultivation as at 31st March, 1929, of which 26 represent the grapefruit orchard, the remainder being devoted to tropical fruits and vegetables. There were 69 inmates at the end of the year. In addition to its normal objects this Institution should serve a valuable purpose in training boys in agriculture and possibly, later on, in forestry.

II.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

32. The revenue collected during the financial year ended 31st March, 1929, amounted to $1,039,666.27, which was $63,846.27 more than the Estimate and $28,545.92 less than the amount collected in the previous financial year. The principal decreases over 1927–28 were under Customs, Revenues of Government Property, and Miscellaneous Receipts.

EXPENDITURE.

33. The expenditure for 1928–29, which was estimated at $1,017,589, amounted to $1,046,877.10, an excess of $29,288.10 over the Estimates and $65,205.92 over the year 1927–28.

34. The revenue and expenditure totals for the last six years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1923–24	1,093,149	1,203,220
1924–25	938,969	920,998
1925–26	996,287	971,197
1926–27	1,116,432	1,040,490
1927–28	1,068,212	1,112,083
1928–29	1,039,666	1,046,877

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

35. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1929, were $809,610.54 and the liabilities $606,163.68, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $203,446.86. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds, and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed loan. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local bank and with the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London, unissued stores, investments in gilt-edged securities, and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Savings Bank and to sundry funds. The cash balances available amounted to $39,112.93.

36. The Colony possesses further assets in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two and a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony. The revenue derived from Crown lands during 1928–29 amounted to $46,392.43.

PUBLIC DEBT.

37. At the close of the financial year the funded public debt of the Colony stood at $1,767,366.52. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $132,663.81, as compared with $118,184 the previous year. Of the loan of $132,663.81, authorized by Chapter 32 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, to meet the cost of certain public works and forestry development, the sum of $934,024 has been expended to date.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

38. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The Bank had a sum of $204,235.79 to the credit of 1,453 depositors on 31st March, 1929, against $190,278.51 to the credit of 1,399 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1929, was $175,121.50 and the interest on investments was $7,729.61. Interest is paid at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1928–29 was $6,456.51.

III.—PRODUCTION.

39. The productive industries of the Colony, in order of importance, are forestry, agriculture, and fisheries, no minerals having as yet been discovered in paying quantities. The relative production of these three industries may be gauged by the percentage exports, by value, of each class of produce which in the year under report were as follows :—

Forest produce	86 per cent.
Agricultural produce	13 ,,
Marine produce	1 ,,

These figures relate only to produce of domestic origin.

40. The accompanying statement* shows in comprehensive form the exports of the important classes of produce of domestic origin to regular markets during the five calendar years ending with 1928. In previous years minor produce in which there is no constant trade, and occasional shipments to destinations to which regular supply has not been maintained have been excluded. The advent of the Agricultural Officer will, it is hoped, give an impetus to the export of minor agricultural products, and the first trial shipments of oranges and the revival of trade in cacao have therefore been noted. The increasing export of hides and skins, chiefly alligator skins, is worthy of note and is included in the statement for the first time.

41. The dominating character of the exports of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King), cedar (*Cedrela mexicana* Roem.), and chicle in the category of forest produce, and of coconuts, copra, and bananas in that of agricultural produce, has been maintained and is indicated in the percentage figures, based on exports of 1928, which appear in the last column of the statement.

42. The demand for mahogany, though still affected by the reaction from boom conditions, appears to be fairly steady. The progressive depletion of accessible supplies is such as to give rise to increasing anxiety as to the future of this industry, on which the Colony in the past has been so largely dependent for subsistence. It is interesting to note that the depression foreseen in the report of 1927 has not affected the market in the United Kingdom to any great extent, the export of mahogany logs showing an increase and that of lumber a slight decrease in 1928.

43. The trade in cedar has decreased considerably. The market in the United Kingdom still declines steadily and the demand in the United States continues erratic. As has been noted previously, the trade in cedar is not one capable of much expansion independently of the mahogany trade, as the two species are extracted together and cedar is of more sporadic occurrence than mahogany.

44. In considering the future supplies of the above woods, there is more cause for anxiety with regard to the supply than to the future demand and, in view of the serious depletion of readily accessible mahogany lands of merchantable timber, the vital need of railway communication to tap supplies near and across the border of Peten is becoming increasingly evident.

45. The market for chicle remains steady, but in that industry also the depletion of domestic sources of the gum is far advanced and reliance must be placed more and more on supplies from adjacent territories. The continued exploitation of grown gum, of which there are still considerable resources in the southern and western highlands of the Colony, promises some extension of life to the industry, and the investigations of the Tropical Plants

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* *See* page 25.

Research Foundation into conservative tapping methods and the extraction of chicle substitutes from species other than *Achras Zapota* can hardly fail to yield results of practical commercial value.

46. Rosewood (*Dalbergia Stevensonii* Standl.) continues to be in market demand on a limited scale in the United States, exports during the year under report having increased considerably, and some interest has been shown from the United Kingdom. Difficulties of extraction militate against any very large increase in the production of this wood.

47. Logwood (*Haematoxylon campechianum* L.) is still in limited demand as a vegetable colourant, France being the chief importer. It is unlikely that trade in this dyewood will increase appreciably.

48. The difficulties of the problems of exploiting secondary woods at a profit are accentuated by a poor mahogany market, but an enquiry instituted by the Tropical Plant Research Foundation, at the instance of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, into the possibility of utilizing Tropical American hardwoods promises to keep alive interest in this matter. The best hopes of development in this direction lie in concurrent extraction of the less valuable with the more valuable species.

49. Pine is again being put on the market in small quantities, and the approaching expiry of the Chipley Pine Concession, covering the larger percentage of Crown pine forests, and the coming into force of a new agreement for the development of these lands should enable progress to be made in the pine sawmilling industry.

50. Interest is again being shown in the silk grass (*Bromelia magdalenae*) and cohune nut (*Attelea Cohune* Morris) industries. Successful and promising results in the decorticating of silk grass have been made recently with experimental machines and suggest possibilities in the development of this source of fibre. It is still too early to decide whether the recently organized project for the utilizing of cohune nuts in the Toledo District will be more successful than its predecessors.

51. The out-turn of coconuts, the principal agricultural crop grown in the Colony, shows a slight decrease as compared with 1927, while that of copra has decreased by approximately 75 per cent. The decrease in copra was due to the scarcity of coconuts and the consequent increase in price, making it more profitable to ship the produce as coconuts rather than as copra.

52. Banana shipments show an increase on the previous year. This probably may be accounted for by the planting of new lands further from the coast. The increase, however, is of no significance, and it is feared that the banana trade will tend to lessen each year, due to Panama disease.

53. Shipments of plantains have more than trebled those of 1927, but this crop is of very minor importance. The private experiments, referred to in the last report, were abandoned at the end of the year. The work done appears to have contributed nothing towards the production of a disease-resistant and merchantable fruit.

54. The distillation of rum shows an increase on the three previous years. This is mainly due to the stabilisation of marketing in the Colony. The Corozal district is the main rum-producing area, and it is only during this year that the Punta Gorda district has entered this industry. The growing of cane for sugar is still an unprofitable investment and until more up-to-date and economical methods of production and processing are adopted it will remain so. An improvement should take place when the proposed agricultural stations are established.

55. The grapefruit industry, although still in its infancy, is now definitely established and expansion, mainly in the Stann Creek Valley, is gradually taking place. No new groves have come into bearing but the production of exportable fruit from the two original groves is on the increase. The advice of the Empire Marketing Board citrus expert, referred to in the 1927 report, has been of immense value and has brought about a great improvement in cultural and handling methods. The Marsh Seedless and Duncan are the only two varieties that have been thoroughly tested and for this reason new plantings are being confined to these varieties. With the exception of one private nursery all trees are propagated at the Industrial School. Legislation prohibiting the importation of trees was introduced towards the latter part of the year. Shipments during the year were chiefly to the United Kingdom, a small quantity going to Canada and British Guiana. Oranges appear on the export list for the first time. These shipments were made by private individuals mainly in the nature of an experiment. There is a probable market in Bermuda for oranges for juice purposes and this is to be investigated. At the instigation of the Empire Marketing Board grapefruit was supplied to the Lister Institute for the determination of the vitamin content. This experiment is to be continued next year.

56. Cacao was shipped again after a lapse of many years. This crop is to be specially attended to by the Agricultural Officer and it is hoped will form a new industry.

57. The lobster-canning industry shows a considerable decline. Lobsters are plentiful and abundant, but the industry is at present arrested by labour difficulties. A very considerable decrease in the export of hawksbill tortoiseshell has taken place. Loggerhead tortoiseshell was again exported in a small quantity. The planting of disc cuttings of sponges has been continued under the control of

a Government scientific expert. Permanent quarters and a laboratory have been erected at Turneffe for the sponge expert. It is interesting to note that shark products again appear in the exports after a lapse of three years.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

58. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $8,523,250 as against $9,082,332 during 1927, a decrease of $559,082.

59. The following table shows the total trade of the Colony for the five years 1924–28 :—

	1924.	*1925.*	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	3,894,281	4,515,121	5,065,663	4,534,804	4,481,748
Exports	3,337,744	3,576,018	3,928,790	4,547,528	4,041,502
Trade	7,232,025	8,091,139	8,994,453	9,082,332	8,523,250

60. Trade with the Empire has shown gradual but steady progress since the inception of the Preferential Tariff and the Agreement with the Dominion of Canada in 1921. From the table hereunder, which gives comparative percentages of Empire and foreign trades during the years 1920 and 1928, it will be observed that the percentage of imports has risen from 17.45 to 37.79, an increase of over 100 per cent. It is satisfactory to observe that an almost similar gain is shown in the exports, and that the percentage of increase in the trade is therefore over 100 per cent.

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1928.	1920.	1928.	1920.	1928.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17.45	37.79	14.88	28.40	16.17	33.34
United States of America	60.44	40.07	78.18	67.26	69.31	52.96
Other Countries	22.11	22.14	6.94	4.34	14.52	13.70

IMPORTS.

61. Imports decreased by $66,304, the total for 1928 being $4,468,500 as against $4,534,804 in 1927.

62. The direction of the import trade for the years 1924–1928 is shown below :—

	1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	726,375	18·65	776,531	17·20	858,149	16·94	689,528	15·25	834,681	18·62
Canada	430,248	11·05	501,030	11·10	532,392	10·51	599,105	13·21	792,411	17·68
Other British Possessions.	68,600	1·76	87,917	1·95	98,029	1·94	101,406	2·23	66,640	1·49
U.S.A.	1,935,198	49·69	2,248,389	49·80	2,375,428	46·89	2,093,237	46·15	1,795,669	40·07
Mexico...	373,874	9·60	421,772	9·34	612,998	12·10	546,276	12·04	528,292	11·78
Other Countries ...	359,986	9·25	479,482	10·61	588,667	11·62	505,252	11·12	464,055	10·36
	3,894,281		4,515,121		5,065,663		4,534,804		4,481,748	

EXPORTS.

63. The value of the exports amounted to $4,041,502, or $506,026 less than the total for 1927.

64. The distribution of the exports during the years 1924–28 is shown below :—

	1924.		1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	259,345	7·77	417,332	11·67	245,502	6·25	357,618	7·86	439,505	10·88
Canada	16,864	·51	35,464	·99	206,635	5·26	145,759	3·21	294,767	7·29
Other British Possessions.	183,965	5·51	12,638	·36	2 565	·07	96,620	2·12	413,643	10·23
United States of America. ...	2,642,033	79·15	2,812,056	78·64	3,208,006	81·65	3,716,299	81·72	2,718,198	67·26
Other Countries ...	235,537	7·06	298,528	8·34	266,082	6·77	231,232	5·09	175,389	4·34
	3,337,744		3,576,018		3 928,790		4,547,528		4,041,502	

65. Mahogany continues to be the principal export of the Colony, accounting in value for 40 per cent. of the total exports in 1928. The following table shows the direction of the exports of mahogany during the last five years :—

	1924. *S. Feet.*	1925. *S. Feet.*	1926. *S. Feet.*	1927. *S. Feet.*	1928. *S. Feet.*
Domestic Produce—					
To United Kingdom	2,123,375	3,087,255	1,513,487	2,411,826	2,637,622
France	—	—	—	—	15,972
United States of America ...	8,872,668	6,312,979	13,738,929	18,689,523	11,138,283
Sub-total	10,996,043	9,400,234	15,252,416	21,101,349	13,791,877
Re-exports—					
To United States of America ...	1,861,802	3,180,602	3,624,964	3,493,122	2,570,403
Total	12,857,845	12,580,836	18,877,380	24,594,471	16,362,280

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

66. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government, and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

67. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. There were occasional sailings to New York and New Orleans by vessels of the Munson Line. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a service between Montreal or Halifax via Bermuda, Bahamas, and Jamaica every three weeks, and the Harrison Line a four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

68. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

ROADS.

69. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. There are a few miles of indifferent road round Belize and at Corozal, Cayo, and Punta Gorda. Otherwise the only "roads" are indifferent bush tracks, cart or bridle paths. A graded earth-road, intended at present for light motor traffic during the dry season, is being opened, mainly along existing tracks, from Belize to Orange Walk on the New River and thence to Corozal. It is hoped to improve this road and metal it, section by section, as funds permit, and to make it a serviceable all weather line of communication with the Northern District.

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TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

70. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are about 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices; the same as in 1927, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

71. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 320 subscribers.

RADIO-TELEGRAPHS.

72. The installations in use at the Radio-Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (*a*) 25 kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18; (*b*) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave-lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 metre and 1,500 metre wave-lengths; all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,500 metre wave.

73. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

74. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on 1,500 metre wave, and 400 on 600 metre wave.

75. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.00 hours and 23.10 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,500 metre wave-length.

76. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

77. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

13.00 to 14.30 hrs.
15.00 to 15.30 hrs.
15.45 to 16.15 hrs.
17.00 to 19.30 hrs.
21.15 to 21.45 hrs.
23.30 to 01.30 hrs.
02.00 to 04.00 hrs.

SHIPPING.

78. A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British from foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 579,878, a decrease of 99,539 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor boats.*	*Total tonnage*
British	4,653	88,148	92,801
United States of America ...	57	64,224	64,281
Other	1,436	132,933	134,369
Totals ...	6,146	285,305	291,451

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor boats.*	*Total tonnage*
British	4,850	84,713	89,563
United States of America ...	104	64,176	64,280
Other	1,401	133,183	134,584
Totals ...	6,355	282,072	288,427

79. The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

	Inwards.	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1924	295,350	297,252	597,602
1925	315,505	327,658	643,163
1926	316,663	319,238	635,906
1927	341,063	337,714	679,317
1928	291,451	288,427	579,878

80. Six sailing and five motor boats were registered during the year, increasing the total registered tonnage by 158 tons.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

81. Justice is administered by the Supreme Court of British Honduras and by the District Commissioners' Courts, subject to appeal to, and review by, the Supreme Court.

82. During the year the Supreme Court dealt with 32 civil matters, as against 24 in the preceding year, and heard 7 actions and 3 appeals. No petitions in bankruptcy were presented during the year. The usual Sessions were held at Corozal in March, June, September, and December.

83. Thirty-two criminal cases came before the Court, excluding reviews of judgments in the lower Court.

84. The following figures show the convictions for the more serious crimes :—

Murder	1
Manslaughter	Nil
Arson	Nil
Forgery	1
Perjury	Nil
Housebreaking	1
Burglary	Nil
Rape and attempted rape	Nil
Indecent assault	Nil
Grevious harm	2

Of the total number of persons accused of crime, 69 per cent. were convicted.

POLICE.

85. The strength of the British Honduras Police Force on 31st December, 1928, was 3 officers, 29 non-commissioned officers and 89 constables.

In addition to their ordinary Police duties, members of the Force, when stationed in the out-districts, act as officers of Customs, telephone operators, postal clerks, keepers of prisons, public vaccinators, attesting officers under the labour law and various other capacities.

The expenditure on the Force during the financial year 1928–29 was $108,163.81. The cost of Police per man is $908.94 ; the cost per head of population is $2.15.

PRISONS.

86. There is one central prison, at Belize, and five local prisons, one in each of the out-districts. During the year 157 persons were committed to the Belize Prison, one of whom was to serve a sentence of five years or more. The daily population of the Belize Prison averaged 43, a decrease of 10 on the previous year.

The number of juveniles admitted was 37 males and 8 females, as compared with 30 males and 12 females during the year 1927. There is no accommodation for the proper separation of youthful offenders, but those under the age of 17 are kept apart as much as possible and are put to work under the direct supervision of an officer.

The Medical Officer examined all prisoners on admission before being classified for labour, as well as daily applicants. The general health of the prisoners was good. Three were admitted to the Public Hospital for treatment. There were no deaths during the year.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

87. No public work of any magnitude, other than of local interest, was undertaken during the year. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost $16,557.88. The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled $23,314.92. During the year the expenditure from loan funds on public works totalled $7,313.40.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

88. The general health of the Colony was good. No cases of quarantinable disease occurred in the Colony during the year.

Cancer was responsible for 15 deaths, or 3.6 per cent. of the total certified deaths, as against 20 deaths in 1927. Neither this year nor last year was there any certified death from this disease in Orange Walk District.

Thirteen cases of enteric fever occurred during the year, with 4 deaths. All the cases were non-imported. While, therefore, the disease is fortunately rarely met with, it does occur in the Colony.

Dysentery, on the other hand, is prevalent throughout the Districts, and 62 cases with 9 deaths were treated in the various hospitals during the year.

There were 28 uncertified deaths in which the causes of death were stated to have been " dysentery," " diarrhoea," or " bad bowels " ; many of these are probably cases of dysentery.

Most of the cases are of the bacillary type, although the amoebic type also occurs. Liver abscess is a rare and infrequent condition in this Colony.

89. The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in the Colony necessitates considerable storage of rain-water in tanks, vats, barrels, and other receptacles, with consequent stegomyia breeding.

The sanitary staff have been engaged in frequent inspections in order to detect the presence or absence of mosquito larvae in these receptacles.

Arrivals in the Colony from Guatemala, Mexico, and Spanish Honduras are all subjected to medical surveillance on landing, but owing to the length of our coast-line and boundaries it is safe to assume that evasions frequently occur ; and therein lies a great source of danger, necessitating the reduction of the stegomyia index to a vanishing point.

Screening of water receptacles is not universally practised as a preventive measure; while it is the most effective it is the most expensive. The use of larvivorous fish is by far the most commonly used anti-stegomyia preventive measure. It is both cheap and effective. Oiling is an effective measure which is also frequently used.

90. The destruction of crabs by means of Cyanogas was continued during the year. The results have been satisfactory. Crabs are temporarily decreased in number and so are also crab holes, sheltering places of mosquitoes and sandflies. It is necessary that this work of destruction should be carried on with increased rather than diminished vigour if the results so far obtained are to be permanent. It is also necessary that this work of crab destruction should not be carried out at the expense of other more important work. The present staff of Sanitary Inspectors is inadequate to do all that ought to be done.

VITAL STATISTICS.

91. The population of the Colony at the end of 1928 is estimated at 50,286. In all the Districts there is an excess of births over deaths, and there is an increase in the population of each District. The birth-rate of the Colony is 38.857 per thousand and the death-rate 18.235 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate for the Colony was 11.31 per hundred, as compared with 14.32 per hundred in 1927.

IX.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

92. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is seventy-five, fifty-three being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables, and in school areas where there are no constables the law is not applied. Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the teaching staff of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years. Government contribution to the cost of elementary education for the year was $74,690.78. The cost *per capita* to Government, based on average attendance, was $13.28.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 76; one hundred and forty-three teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 7,391, of whom 3,874 were boys and 3,517 girls.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

93. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. In Belize there are six schools, including St. John's College conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at the annual Cambridge Local examinations, which, during the year, amounted to $1,800.00.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

94. During the financial year 1928–29, 186 applications for leases of 4,625 acres of agricultural land and 105 applications for leases of 131 town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. 417 acres of agricultural land were sold to 17 applicants for $1,671.69 and 11 town and village lots were sold to 11 applicants for $733.65. Seventy acres of agricultural land and 3 town and village lots were granted free. Sixty-seven titles for 85 town and village lots and 12 titles for 92 acres of agricultural land were issued.

95. Progress upon the trigonometrical survey was continued. Five base extension stations and ten main stations were selected, cleared, and beaconed.

96. The surveys reported as having been in progress at the close of the financial year 1928–29 were completed, and in addition a re-survey of the village of Barranco and a number of surveys of minor importance were made.

XI.—LABOUR.

97. The demand for mahogany, the Colony's staple product, was less than in the year 1927, and it has had its effect on the labour situation, as is shown in the table in paragraph 98.

98. The following table shows the number of men employed under the Labour Ordinance during the hiring season 1928–29, there being a decrease of 135 as compared with the previous year :—

Timber operations	751
Agricultural	217
Total ...	968

There is no immigrant labour.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

LEGISLATION.

99. Thirty-four Ordinances were passed during the year, some of them being amending Ordinances, which call for no special comment.

100. The more important new Ordinances are :—

No. 16 of 1928.—Regulating Pensions, Gratuities and other Allowances to be granted in respect of offices held in His Majesty's Civil Service in this Colony. This Ordinance repeals the former Ordinance and adopts the recommendations contained in the Pensions Report of the Stevenson Committee, 1922–24.

No. 22 of 1928.—To consolidate and amend the law relating to Opium and other Dangerous Drugs. This Ordinance is in conformity with the Dangerous Drugs Convention Protocol and Final Act signed in February, 1925, at the Second Opium Conference, Geneva.

CLIMATE.

101. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

The annual rainfall at Belize was 52.29 inches.

102. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 18th July, when the thermometer registered 88.5° F., and 26th December, when it was at 57.0° F.

F. P. GENEVE,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

30th October, 1929.

APPENDIX.

Exports of Produce.

Product.	*Destination.*	*1924.*		*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1928.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Mahogany Logs (S. ft.)	U.K. ...	2,123,375	192,455	3,087,255	362,730	1,513,487	189,186	2,411,826	265,771	2,637,622	338,133	—
	U.S.A. ...	8,872,668	896,263	6,312,979	660,985	13,736,928	1,189,328	18,689,523	1,730,775	11,138,283	963,610	—
	France ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,972	1,597	—
	Total ...	10,996,043	1,088,718	9,400,234	1,023,715	15,250,415	1,378,514	21,101,349	1,996,546	13,791,877	1,303,340	70·05
Mahogany Lumber ... (S. ft.)	U.K. ...	45,029	4,052	80,208	9,772	24,613	2,460	232,295	25,854	221,197	28,181	—
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	1,000	160	18,297	1,105	7,026	897	—
	Bahamas	2,097	377	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Bermuda	9,201	1,656	106	20	—	—	8,755	1,461	—	—	—
	Jamaica ...	5,096	697	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canada ...	706	141	64,878	11,010	124,106	22,598	67,166	11,740	34,682	4,343	—
	Total ...	62,129	6,923	145,192	20,802	149,719	25,218	326,513	40,160	262,905	33,421	1·8
Cedar Logs (S. ft.) ...	U.K. ...	89,624	8,494	66,798	6,915	37,642	4,705	42,629	4,577	26,493	2,441	—
	U.S.A. ...	467,429	45,858	214,052	23,148	244,308	20,431	689,210	47,002	377,113	25,264	—
	Total ...	557,053	54,352	280,850	30,063	281,950	25,136	731,839	51,579	403,606	27,705	1·49
Banak (S. ft.)	U.S.A. ...	63,219	1,900	377,920	10,356	355,256	12,434	10,454	143	—	—	—
Santa Maria	U.S.A. ...	21,758	650	111,716	2,793	159,103	5,569	540	32	—	—	—
Yemeri	U.S.A. ...	1,307	40	40,274	1,004	3,451	121	10,082	504	—	—	—
Other Hardwoods ...	U.S.A ...	—	—	2,119	530	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

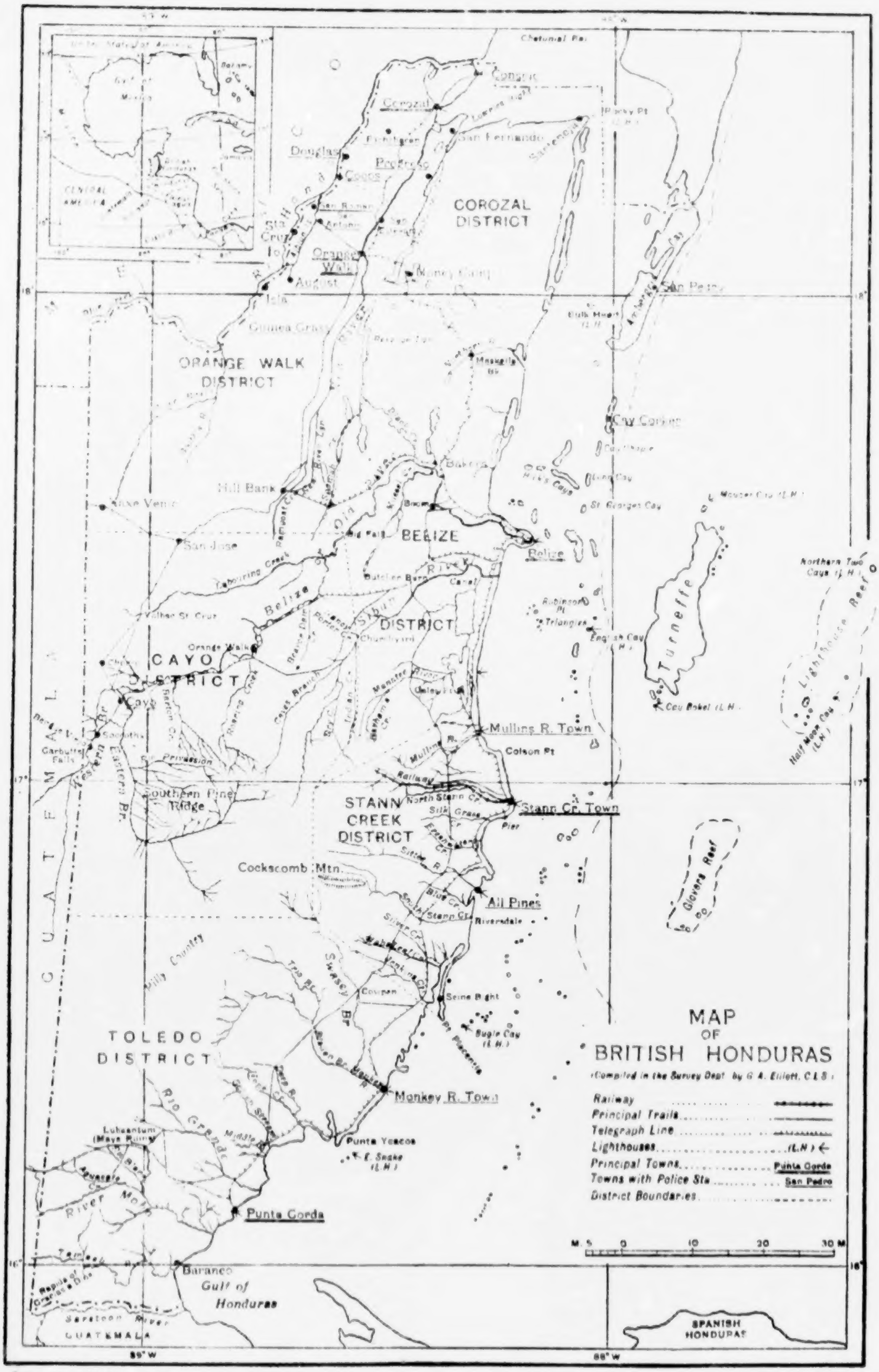
EXPORTS OF PRODUCE—*continued.*

Product.	*Destination.*	*1924.*		*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1928.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Rosewood (Tons) ...	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	945	—
	U.S.A. ...	130	3,662	248	5,362	76	2,315	137	2,925	393	8,656	—
	Total ...	130	3,662	248	5,362	76	2,315	137	2,925	435	9,601	0·52
Pine Lumber (S. ft.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,225	599	—
	Guatemala	—	—	30,621	1,558	130,722	6,165	—	—	—	—	—
	Honduras	—	—	88,696	3,816	91,050	3,968	—	—	—	—	—
	Mexico ...	—	—	17,732	1,050	73,072	3,592	—	—	11,629	421	—
	Total ...	—	—	137,049	6,424	294,844	13,725	—	—	22,854	1,020	0·05
Logwood (Tons) ...	U.K. ...	675	14,560	269	6,725	186	4,510	332	8,405	322	7,364	—
	U.S.A. ...	637	19,114	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	France ...	—	—	340	8,500	451	11,271	—	—	742	18,200	—
	Total ...	1,312	33,674	609	15,225	637	15,781	332	8,405	1,064	25,564	1·37
Chicle (Lb.)	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,738	4,382	24,712	11,525	—
	U.S.A. ...	306,167	139,301	334,892	154,875	233,076	100,560	424,354	189,374	356,725	156,439	—
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	26,770	11,383	26,083	10,862	60,449	25,999	—
	Total ...	306,167	139,301	334,892	154,875	259,846	111,943	460,175	204,618	441,886	193,963	10·43
Hides and Skins (No.)	U.S.A. ...	—	880	258	153	1,939	1,554	2,297	3,915	2,103	6,651	0·36
Railway Sleepers (No.)	Jamaica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	840	1,600	0·09
Forest Produce ...	*Total* ...	—	*1,330,100*	—	*1,271,302*	—	*1,592,310*	—	*2,308,827*	—	*1,602,865*	*86·16*

Coconuts (No.)	Canada ...	522,950	10,777	955,650	21,970	2,180,535	41,646	2,623,955	49,370	1,726,790	36,391	—
	U.S.A. ...	4,564,284	111,343	4,786,508	113,926	3,322,025	67,662	3,290,079	80,819	4,031,187	90,132	—
	Total ...	5,087,234	122,120	5,742,158	135,896	5,502,560	109,308	5,914,034	130,189	5,757,977	126,523	6·81
Copra (Lb.)	U.K. ...	339,374	16,409	—	—	417,433	18,810	259,683	12,984	—	—	—
	U.S.A. ...	250,923	10,791	442,178	19,002	784,248	39,085	1,296,547	62,142	497,849	24,889	—
	Mexico ...	—	—	234,140	9,749	287,540	11,449	136,718	4,435	90,000	3,375	—
	Total ...	590,297	27,200	676,318	28,751	1,489,221	69,344	1,692,948	79,561	587,849	28,264	1·52
Bananas (Bunches) ...	U.S.A. ...	265,957	91,006	269,795	99,091	161,281	53,861	112,640	42,619	148,564	55,604	2·99
Plantains (No.) ...	U.S.A. ...	773,500	8,411	1,453,135	16,623	998,400	10,831	210,800	2,266	704,205	7,398	0·40
Rum (Gals.)	Honduras	7,005	7,459	1,540	1,540	348	348	5,758	5,987	1,235	1,235	—
	Nicaragua	3,066	3,103	4,256	4,256	5,718	5,738	1,330	1,299	7,072	7,072	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,872	1,872	—
	Cayman Is.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	143	143	—
	Total ...	10,071	10,562	5,796	5,796	6,066	6,086	7,088	7,286	10,322	10,322	0·55
Grapefruit (No.) ...	U.K. ...	—	—	1,302	62	122,946	4,232	69,998	2,387	230,922	10,072	—
	Bermuda	—	—	15,278	627	51,272	1,631	58,310	2,589	—	—	—
	Canada ...	3,738	155	50,503	1,978	144,214	4,896	59,830	2,604	13,764	563	—
	Br. Guiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	576	27	—
	Total ...	3,738	155	67,083	2,667	318,432	10,759	188,138	7,580	245,262	10,662	0·58
Oranges (No.)	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,755	86	—
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,016	155	—
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,771	241	0·01
Cacao Beans (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,891	964	0·04
Other Agricultural Produce.	U.K. and Jamaica.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	640	0·03
Agricultural Produce	*Total* ...	—	*259,454*	—	*288,824*	—	*260,189*	—	*269,501*	—	*240,668*	*12·93*

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE—*continued.*

Product.	*Destination.*	*1924.*		*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1928.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Lobsters (Canned) (Cases)	U.S.A. ...	498	2,718	3,827	19,595	2,249	18,888	2,922	15,952	1,214	6,190	0·34
Tortoiseshell Hawksbill (Lb.) ... Loggerhead (Lb.) ...	U.K. ... U.K. ...	3,061 379	20,211 114	2,798 894	19,361 295	2,974 1,881	16,957 542	2,984 —	12,414 —	1,625 1,738	7,916 600	— —
	Total ...	3,440	20,325	3,692	19,656	4,855	17,499	2,984	12,414	3,363	8,516	0·46
Sponges, Raw (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	896	695	247	193	333	218	—	—	—	—	—
Shark Products (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	5,272	5,850	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,894	1,948	0·11
Marine Produce ...	*Total* ...	—	*23,738*	—	*39,444*	—	*36,605*	—	*28,366*	—	*16,654*	*0·91*
All Produce	**Total** ..	—	**1,613,292**	—	**1,599,570**	—	**1,889,104**	—	**2,606,694**	—	**1,860,187**	**100·00**



MAP
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept by G. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns
Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta
San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M.
COROZAL DISTRICT
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
BELIZE DISTRICT
CAYO DISTRICT
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Corozal
Consejo
San Fernando
Douglas
Progreso
Orange Walk
August
Isla
Guinea Grass
San Pedro
Cay Corker
Hill Bank
San Jose
Belize
Turneffe
Lighthouse Reef
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
St. George's Cay
English Cay (L.H.)
Orange Walk
Cayo
Succotz
Benque Viejo
Garbutt Falls
Southern Pine Ridge
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt
Stann Cr. Town
Pier
Cockscomb Mtn.
All Pines
Riversdale
Glovers Reef
Seine Bight
Bugle Cay (L.H.)
Monkey R. Town
Punta Ycacos
E. Snake (L.H.)
Lubaantun (Maya Ruins)
Punta Gorda
Rio Grande
Moho River
Barranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS
Chetumal Bay
Rocky Pt (L.H.)
Bulk Head (L.H.)
Gulf of Mexico
CENTRAL AMERICA
United States of America
18°
17°
16°
89° W
88° W

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Ordnance Survey, 1927

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REPORT FOR 1929

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

(With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1930).

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GEOGRAPHY.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 80,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West India Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coconuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about five feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek district. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo district, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

HISTORY.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Spanish Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez, long before the Christian era—possibly 5,000 years ago—archaeologists say that the inhabitants of this part of the world were sufficiently civilized to have an exact system of chronology.

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It [illegible] probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the

subjects of His Britannic Majesty and those of the King of Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. *King George*, to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In 1670, Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by the Godolphin Treaty of the 8th July, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the settlement at this date amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having " increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated " principally by slaves " at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public

meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1790–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1839 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1889 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordnance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as " The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all Ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were four unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each district. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health; markets; slaughter-houses; traffic regulation; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts; building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

LANGUAGES.

15. English is the official language, but Spanish is spoken in some parts of the Colony, especially in the north, while there are many different dialects spoken by the Maya Indians. In the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts the Carib language prevails.

CURRENCY.

16. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces, and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners, the gold and other securities by which it is secured being, for the time being, in the custody of the Royal Bank of Canada.

ERRATUM.

COLONIAL REPORT No. 1521—BRITISH HONDURAS, 1929.

On page 2, para. 2, line 7 the total area should read *8,598* square miles.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

17. The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Mecate	22 yards square.
1 Vara	11.12 of a yard.

I.—GENERAL.

18. The annual Maya Exploration Expedition from the British Museum arrived in February under Captain T. A. Joyce and continued the investigation, started four years ago, of the Maya ruins of the Colony. This year attention was directed to the group of ruins situated between the Pusilha and Joventud branches of the Moho River. An illustrated report of the Expedition was published in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, vol. LIX, page 439.

There was also another archaeological expedition under Mr. J. Eric Thompson, Assistant Curator of Central and South American Archaeology, on behalf of the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, at work near the western frontier in the neighbourhood of El Cayo.

The results of Mr. Thompson's investigations have since been published in an illustrated volume entitled "Ethnology of the Mayas of Southern and Central British Honduras" (Field Museum Pubn. No. 274, Anthropological Series, Vol. XVII, No. 2).

The Colony abounds in most interesting ruins of the ancient Maya civilization.

19. Brigadier G. C. Grazebrook, C.M.G., D.S.O., Inspector-General of the West Indian Local Forces and Officer Commanding the Troops, visited the Colony in October and inspected the local Defence and Police Forces.

20. The Government operations for the re-establishment of the Sponge Fishery were continued at Turneffe with satisfactory results. The future of this industry in the Colony is promising. Early in the year, an important step was reached in the opening of the first concession to be granted to a tenant for sponge cultivation, some years earlier than it had been expected would be possible.

In this new stage of the work, preliminary tests of prospective concession areas are undertaken in every case prior to the opening of the concessions to tenants, in order to ascertain their suitableness or otherwise for sponge planting. Attention is now being given to the carrying out of special planting experiments for this purpose in the different parts of Turneffe, and as the results of these tests are ascertained year by year, the Government will be in a position to increase the number of concessions to be leased to tenants for commercial planting.

The progress of the planted sponges on the different grounds of the Lagoon has continued to be very satisfactory at all points, and concurrently with the testing of new prospective concession grounds the planted material is being steadily increased.

21. Under the chairmanship of the Governor, a Committee has been engaged during the year extracting from the local archives, with a view to publication, all matters of historical value or human interest. At the same time attention is being given to the restoration and binding of the documents for their future preservation.

22. Due to excessive and exceptional floods during the year much damage was done to riverain plantations. The Legislative Council voted a generous sum for relief and rehabilitation, and this, with public subscriptions collected, was administered by the Flood Relief Committee of the British Honduras Agricultural Society.

23. Consequent on the presentation of a petition by the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council for reduction of expenditure in connection with the Forestry Department, certain retrenchments in staff and expenditure were authorized by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the amount now provided being sufficient to maintain the progress achieved, but not sufficient to allow of further extension. The Forest Trust organization and legal constitution, however, are being maintained so as to be available for resumption of full activity when the finances of the Colony warrant it.

24. After opening the new Air Mail route from Miami, Florida, to British Guiana, through the Eastern Chain of West Indian Islands, Colonel Lindbergh and his wife, accompanied by Mr. J. T. Trippe, President of the Pan American Airways, Inc., and Mrs. Trippe arrived in Belize in October. Subsequently he carried out from Belize as his base an aerial survey of portions of the Yucatan peninsula and the Peten District of Guatemala.

25. The Government Industrial School for Boys, at Pomona in the Stann Creek Valley, which was opened in March, 1927, continued to progress. Of the total area of 650 acres, 73 acres were under cultivation as at 31st March, 1930, of which 36 represent the grapefruit orchard, the remainder being devoted to tropical fruits and vegetables. There were 64 inmates at the end of the year. In addition to its normal objects, this Institution should serve a valuable purpose in training boys in agriculture and possibly, later on, in forestry.

A school dairy was established during the year with great success. Valuable work is being done in connection with the nurseries. During the year 3,138 young trees of standard grapefruit were distributed to planters throughout the Colony.

II.—FINANCE.

REVENUE.

26. The revenue collected during the financial year ended 31st March, 1930, amounted to $1,036,067.62, which was $77,979.62 more than the Estimate and $3,598.65 less than the amount collected in the previous financial year.

EXPENDITURE.

27. The expenditure for 1929–30, which was estimated at $969,371.00, amounted to $1,023,602.68, an excess of $54,231.68 over the Estimates and a decrease of $23,274.42 over the year 1928–29.

28. The revenue and expenditure totals for the last six years are as follows :—

	Revenue. $	*Expenditure.* $
1924–25	938,969	920,998
1925–26	996,287	971,197
1926–27	1,116,432	1,040,490
1927–28	1,068,212	1,112,083
1928–29	1,039,666	1,046,877
1929–30	1,036,068	1,023,603

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

29. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1930, were $832,313.44 and liabilities $616,401.64, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $215,911.80. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds, and sums advanced in anticipation of the proposed loan. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local bank and with the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London, unissued stores, investments in gilt-edged securities and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Savings Bank and to sundry funds. The cash balances available amounted to $20,304.46.

The Colony possesses further assets in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two-and-a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony. The revenue derived from Crown lands during 1929–30 amounted to $34,948.10.

PUBLIC DEBT.

30. At the close of the financial year the funded public debt of the Colony stood at $1,869,407.34. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $147,881.58, as compared with $132,663.81 the previous year. Of the net proceeds amounting to $1,083,443 realised from a loan authorized by Chapter 32, Consolidated Laws, 1924, as amended by Ordinance 13 of 1928, to meet the cost of certain public works and forestry development, the sum of $1,075,648.42 has been expended to date.

GOVERNMENT SAVINGS BANK.

31. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The Bank had a sum of $213,187.98 to the credit of 1,474 depositors on 31st March, 1930, against $204,235.79 to the credit of 1,453 depositors in the previous year. The amount invested as at 31st March, 1930, was $175,121.50 and the interest on investments was $7,745.32. Interest is paid at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1929–30 was $7,012.99.

III.—PRODUCTION.

32. The productive industries of the Colony, in order of importance are forestry, agriculture, and fisheries, no minerals having as yet been discovered in paying quantities. The relative production of these three industries may be gauged by the percentage exports, by value, of each class of produce, which in the year under report were as follows :—

Forest produce	85.25	per cent.
Agricultural produce	14.02	,,
Marine produce	.67	,,
Unclassified produce	.06	,,

These figures relate only to produce of domestic origin.

33. The accompanying statement* shows in comprehensive form the exports of the important classes of produce of domestic origin to regular markets during the five calendar years ending with 1929.

34. Exports of forest produce were predominantly of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King), cedar (*Cedrela mexicana* Roem) and chicle.

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* *See* page 24.

Minor forest products continued to be shipped on a small scale. An increased number of hides, chiefly alligator skins, was exported, but lower prices than in 1928 prevailed.

35. The exports of mahogany were maintained on account of increased buying by the United States of America. The market in the United Kingdom was depressed and took less than half of its 1928 quota. This was balanced by the increased demand from the United States of America.

Lower prices than in previous years prevailed, probably on account of increasing shipment of small-sized wood.

36. The cedar trade, which fluctuates greatly, recovered considerably from the 1928 depression, but, as in the case of mahogany, solely on account of an improved market in the United States of America. The export to the United Kingdom continues to decline to a marked degree.

37. As was noted last year the future supply of mahogany and cedar gives rise to greater anxiety than the future demand. Depletion of accessible stocks of timber is proceeding rapidly.

38. The chicle market was more active than in any other year of the last quinquennium. The new markets in Canada and the United Kingdom are being satisfactorily maintained.

Less interest was shown in Crown gum during 1929 as compared with the 1928 demand.

39. Rosewood (*Dalbergia Stevensonii* Standl.) continued a limited market in the United States of America. The small demand from the United Kingdom during 1928 was maintained in 1929.

40. The small demand from the United Kingdom for logwood (*Haematoxylon campechianum* L.) was maintained, but with no buying from France there was a considerable decrease in logwood exports as compared with those of 1928.

41. Pine (*Pinus caribaea*) was not exported during the year on account of the liquidation of the chief pine saw-milling concern.

42. The utilization of the cohune nut (*Attalea Cohune* Morris) is being undertaken in the Toledo District where silvicultural operations, with a view to reducing the virgin bush into a pasture plantation state, increasing the production and facilitating the collection of nuts, have been in progress for some months. The husking and cracking machine, of which the operating company have the patent, is said to have been successfully tested in Spanish Honduras, but has not yet been installed in the Colony.

43. Coconuts still remain the principal agricultural crop grown and exported. There was a slight increase in the export of coconuts and a considerable increase in copra for the year. Although the crop during the first half of the year was poor, after the rains broke

a considerable increase took place. Fortunately prices increased somewhat during the latter part of the year which coincided with the crop increase.

44. Shipments of bananas fell slightly during the year. This crop will tend to rise and fall and cannot be relied upon to take a high place in agriculture. Attention will be given to finding suitable crops to take the place of the banana.

45. Owing to the decreasing demand from outside for plantains the export figures show a decided decrease over last year. However, the local demand for this fruit is heavy and all that is grown could be consumed in the country with ease.

46. The distillation of rum again shows an increase and reached the highest figure for the last five years. However, the cane-growing industry has not improved and will not do so until systematic and more up-to-date and economical methods are employed. It is to be hoped that the newly formed Department of Agriculture will, at not too distant a date, be given facilities for undertaking this and similar work.

47. Gradual expansion is taking place in the planting of grapefruit, mainly in the North Stann Creek Valley, with small plantings in the Toledo District, Belize and Sibun Rivers, and the Corozal District. No new groves came into commercial bearing during the year. All new plantings have been confined to the Marsh seedless and Duncan varieties. For the period under review, shipments show a slight decrease, due to a short first crop caused by bad weather conditions at the time of flowering and setting. Shipments to Canada were increased, with the object of gradually working up a Canadian trade, since better shipping facilities have been afforded. The bulk of these shipments consisted of native seedling fruit and the reception of this fruit was most encouraging. However, before any advance can be made in shipping seedlings much selection work will be necessary. Shipments to the Lister Institute for testing of vitamin content were continued. British Honduras grapefruit won the Gold Medal at the Imperial Fruit Show for the second year in succession. Owing to the outbreak of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis Capitata*) in Florida, imported citrus fruits were subjected to thorough examination before being allowed out of bond. Up to date this pest has not been reported.

48. More interest than ever in the past has been taken in the growing of vegetables. There is, however, room for much improvement in the matter of varieties, cultural methods and marketing. The bulk of the vegetable gardens are situated on the river banks near Belize and much loss was experienced owing to the abnormal floods during the latter half of the year. Many growers had their crops completely washed out and were unable to replant before the new year.

49. No improvement has taken place in the lobster-canning industry, due mainly to labour difficulties. Fresh lobsters, however, appear in the exports for the first time. There appears to be a big demand for this article in the neighbouring republics to the South. The export of shark products shows a decided increase.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

50. The gross trade of the Colony amounted to $9,933,548 as against $8,523,250 during 1928, an increase of $1,410,298.

51. The following table shows the total trade of the Colony for the five years 1925–29 :—

	1925.	*1926.*	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	4,515,121	5,065,663	4,534,804	4,481,748	5,056,673
Exports	3,576,018	3,928,790	4,547,528	4,041,502	4,876,875
Trade	8,091,139	8,994,453	9,082,332	8,523,250	9,933,548

52. Trade with the Empire has shown gradual but steady progress since the inception of the Preferential Tariff and the Agreement with the Dominion of Canada in 1921. From the table hereunder, which gives comparative percentages of Empire and foreign trades during the years 1920 and 1929, it will be observed that the percentage of imports has risen from 17.45 to 41.06, an increase of over 100 per cent. It is satisfactory to observe that an almost similar gain is shown in the exports, and that the percentage of increase in the trade is therefore approximately 100 per cent.

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1929.	1920.	1929.	1920.	1929.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17.45	41.06	14.88	23.73	16.17	31.55
United States of America	60.44	39.41	78.18	71.46	69.31	55.14
Other Countries	22.11	19.53	6.94	4.81	14.52	12.31

IMPORTS.

53. Imports increased by $574,925, the total for 1929 being $5,056,673 as against $4,468,500 in 1928.

54. The direction of the import trade for the years 1925–1929 is shown below :—

	1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	776,531	17·20	858,149	16·94	689,528	15·25	834,681	18·62	888,406	17·57
Canada	501,030	11·10	532,392	10·51	599,105	13·21	792,411	17·68	1,105,403	21·86
Other British Possessions.	87,917	1·95	98,029	1·94	101,406	2·23	66,640	1·49	82,456	1·63
United States of America	2,248,389	49·80	2,375,428	46·89	2,093,237	46·15	1,795,669	40·07	1,992,670	39·41
Mexico...	421,772	9·34	612,998	12·10	546,276	12·04	528,292	11·78	410,239	8·11
Other Countries ...	479,482	10·61	588,667	11·62	505,252	11·12	464,055	10·36	577,499	11·42
	4,515,121		5,065,663		4,534,804		4,481,748		5,056,673	

EXPORTS.

55. The value of the **exports amounted** to $4,876,875, or $835,373 **more than the total for** 1928.

56. The distribution of the exports during the years 1925–29 is shown below :—

	1925.		1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	417,332	11·67	245,502	6·25	357,618	7·86	439,505	10·88	324,009	6·65
Canada	35,464	·99	206,635	5·26	145,759	3·21	294,767	7·29	233,671	4·79
Other British Possessions.	12,638	·36	2,565	·07	96,620	2·12	413,643	10·23	599,519	12·29
United States of America. ...	2,812,056	78·64	3,208,006	81·65	3,716,299	81·72	2,718,198	67·26	3,485,061	71·46
Other Countries ...	298,528	8·34	266,082	6·77	231,232	5·09	175,389	4·34	234,615	4·81
	3,576,018		3,928,790		4,547,528		4,041,502		4,876,875	

57. Mahogany continues to be the principal export of the Colony, accounting in value for 38 per cent. of the total exports in 1929. The following table shows the direction of the exports of mahogany during the last five years :—

	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
	S. Feet.	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*
Domestic Produce—					
To United Kingdom	3,087,255	1,513,487	2,411,826	2,637,622	1,286,242
France	—	—	—	15,972	—
United States of America ...	6,312,979	13,738,929	18,689,523	11,138,283	12,861,862
Sub-total	9,400,234	15,252,416	21,101,349	13,791,877	14,148,104
Re-exports—					
To United States of America ...	3,180,602	3,624,964	3,493,122	2,570,403	2,330,076
Total	12,580,836	18,877,380	24,594,471	16,362,280	16,478,180

SHIPPING.

58. A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 625,272, an increase of 45,394 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	2,423	86,977	89,400
United States of America ...	452	84,110	84,562
Other	1,685	136,934	138,619
Total ...	4,560	308,021	312,581

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor boats.*	*Total tonnage*
British	2,446	84,616	87,062
United States of America ...	423	81,278	81,701
Other	1,488	142,440	143,928
Total ...	4,357	308,334	312,691

59. The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

	Inwards.	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1925	315,505	327,658	643,163
1926	316,663	319,238	635,906
1927	341,063	337,714	679,317
1928	291,451	288,427	579,878
1929	312,581	312,691	625,272

60. Seven sailing and eleven motor boats were registered during the year, increasing the total registered tonnage by 292 tons.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

61. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor vessels were established during 1924, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

62. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian Government Merchant Marine conduct a fortnightly service between Belize and Jamaica connecting with their service to Canada via Bahamas and Bermuda, and the Harrison Line a

four-weekly service from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and New Orleans or Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connection between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian Government Merchant Marine to Belize.

63. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

64. A tri-weekly Air Mail Service between the United States and the Canal Zone, with Belize as an overnight stopping place, was inaugurated by Colonel Lindbergh on behalf of the Pan American Airways, Inc., on 4th February. Towards the end of the year a passenger service was added.

Roads.

65. The Colony is urgently in need of good roads. Owing to the low-lying nature of much of the Colony, road construction is difficult and expensive. There are a few miles of indifferent road round Belize and at Corozal, Cayo, and Punta Gorda. Otherwise the only " roads " are indifferent bush tracks, cart or bridle paths. A graded earth-road, intended at present for light motor traffic during the dry season, is being opened, mainly along existing tracks, from Belize to Orange Walk on the New River and thence to Corozal. It is hoped to improve this road and metal it, section by section, as funds permit, and to make it a serviceable all-weather line of communication with the Northern District.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

66. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are about 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices, the same as in 1928, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

67. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 300 subscribers.

Radio–Telegraphs.

68. The installations in use at the Radio-Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (*a*) 25 Kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18 ; (*b*) 5 kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The

arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave-lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 and 1,550 metre wave-lengths, all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,550 metre wave.

69. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

70. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on the 1,550 metre wave, and 400 miles on the 600 metre wave.

71. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.30 hours and 23.15 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,550 metre wave-length.

72. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

73. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

12.45 to 13.10 hrs.
14.30 to 15.00 hrs.
16.15 to 16.30 hrs.
17.30 to 17.45 hrs.
18.30 to 19.00 hrs.
19.30 to 19.45 hrs.
21.00 to 21.15 hrs.
22.30 to 23.00 hrs.
23.30 to 00.30 hrs.
01.45 to 02.00 hrs.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

JUSTICE.

74. Justice is administered by the Supreme Court of British Honduras and by the District Commissioners' Courts, subject to appeal to, and review by, the Supreme Court.

75. During the year the Supreme Court dealt with 61 civil matters as against 32 in the preceding year, and heard 4 actions and 3 appeals.

One petition in bankruptcy was presented during the year. The usual Sessions were held at Corozal in March, June, September, and December.

76. Forty-three criminal cases came before the Court, excluding reviews of judgments in the lower Court.

77. The following figures show the convictions for the more serious crimes :—

Murder	1
Manslaughter	2
Arson	Nil
Forgery	1
Perjury	Nil
Housebreaking	1
Burglary	Nil
Rape and attempted rape	Nil
Indecent assault	Nil
Grievous harm	1

Of the total number of persons accused of crime, 65 per cent. were convicted.

POLICE.

78. The strength of the British Honduras Police Force on 31st December, 1929, was 3 officers, 29 non-commissioned officers, and 88 constables.

In addition to their ordinary Police duties, members of the Force, when stationed in the out-districts, act as officers of Customs, telephone operators, postal clerks, keepers of prisons, public vaccinators, attesting officers under the labour law, and in various other capacities.

The expenditure on the Force during the financial year 1929–30 was $107,109.27. The cost of Police per man is $885.20 ; the cost per head of population is $2.09.

PRISONS.

79. There is one central prison, at Belize, and five local prisons, one in each of the out-districts. During the year 155 persons were committeed to the Belize Prison, of these 4 were sentenced to 2 years' hard labour, 1 to 2½ years, 1 to 3, 1 to 5, 1 to 15 ; 1 was sentenced to be executed. The daily population of the Belize Prison averaged 43, the same as the previous year.

The number of juveniles admitted was 43 males and 8 females, as compared with 37 males and 8 females during the year 1928. There is no accommodation for the proper separation of youthful offenders, but those under the age of 17 are kept apart as much as possible and are put to work under the direct supervision of an officer.

The Medical Officer examined all prisoners on admission before being classified for labour, as well as daily applicants. The general health of the prisoners was good. Six were admitted to the Public Hospital for treatment. There were no deaths during the year.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

80. No public work of any magnitude, or of other than of local interest, was undertaken during the year. The maintenance of Government buildings during the year cost $17,613.54. The expenditure on roads and bridges totalled $26,834.85.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

81. The general health of the Colony was good. No cases of quarantinable disease occurred in the Colony during the year.

Cancer was responsible for 24 deaths, or 5.1 per cent. of the total certified deaths, as against 15 deaths in 1928. There were no certified deaths from this disease in Orange Walk, Stann Creek, and Toledo Districts.

Three cases of enteric fever occurred in the Corozal District during the year, with one death. While, therefore, the disease is fortunately rarely met with, it does occur in the Colony.

Dysentery, on the other hand, is prevalent throughout the Districts, and 73 cases, with 14 deaths, were treated in the various hospitals during the year.

There were 56 uncertified deaths in which the causes of death were stated to have been "dysentery," "diarrhoea," or "bad bowels"; many of these were probably cases of dysentery.

Most of the cases are of the bacillary type, although the amoebic type also occurs. Liver abscess is a rare and infrequent condition in this Colony.

82. The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in the Colony necessitates considerable storage of rain-water in tanks, vats, barrels, and other receptacles, with consequent stegomyia breeding.

The sanitary staff have been engaged in frequent inspections in order to detect the presence or absence of mosquito larvae in these receptacles.

Arrivals in the Colony from Guatemala, Mexico, and Spanish Honduras are all subjected to medical surveillance on landing, but owing to the length of our coast-line and boundaries it is safe to assume that evasions frequently occur; and therein lies a great source of danger, necessitating the reduction of the stegomyia index to a vanishing point.

Screening of water receptacles is not universally practised as a preventive measure; while it is the most effective it is the most expensive. The use of larvivorous fish is by far the most commonly used anti-stegomyia preventive measure. It is both cheap and effective. Oiling is an effective measure which is also frequently used.

83. The destruction of crabs by means of Cyanogas was continued during the year. The results have been satisfactory. Crabs are temporarily decreased in number and so are also crab holes, sheltering

places of mosquitoes and sandflies. It is necessary that this work of destruction should be carried on with increased rather than diminished vigour if the results so far obtained are to be permanent. It is also necessary that this work of crab destruction should not be carried out at the expense of other more important work. The present staff of Sanitary Inspectors is inadequate to do all that ought to be done.

VITAL STATISTICS.

84. The population of the Colony at the end of 1929 is estimated at 51,228. In all the Districts there is an excess of births over deaths, and there is an increase in the population of each District. The birth-rate of the Colony is 39.314 per thousand and the death-rate 20.926 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate for the Colony was 12.95 per hundred, as compared with 11.31 in 1928.

IX.—EDUCATION.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

85. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is seventy-five, fifty-four being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize where a civilian is employed; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied. Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the teaching staff of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years. Government contribution to the cost of elementary education for the year was $77,634.99. The cost *per capita* to Government, based on average attendance, was $13.23.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 75; one hundred and forty-seven teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 7,564, of whom 3,972 were boys and 3,592 girls.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

86. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the Diocesan High Schools for Boys and Girls conducted by the Anglican Church, St. John's College conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at the annual Cambridge Local examinations, which, during the year, amounted to $1,250.00.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

87. During the financial year 1929–30, 113 applications for leases of 3,188 acres of agricultural land, and 63 applications for leases of 90 town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. 339 acres of agricultural land were sold to 13 applicants for $1,316.49 and 12 town and village lots were sold to 10 applicants for $479.75. Twenty acres of agricultural land and four town and village lots were granted free. Sixty-two titles for 65 town and village lots and four titles for 33 acres of agricultural land were issued.

88. Progress upon the trigonometrical survey was continued. The check base line at Garbutt's Falls was measured, and trigonometrical observations were taken at twelve main stations and ten base extension stations.

89. Several important surveys were undertaken for the ascertainment of areas for taxation purposes or for the settlement of boundary disputes. A number of surveys of minor importance were also made.

XI.—LABOUR.

90. The demand for mahogany, the Colony's staple product, was greater this year than in 1928. The chicle market was active, and, on the whole, there was less unemployment than in the previous year.

91. The following table shows the number of men employed under the Labour Ordinance during the hiring season 1929–30, there being a decrease of 136 as compared with the previous year :—

Timber operations	690
Agricultural	142
Total... ...	832

It may be explained here that few of the men engaged in chicle operations are employed under the labour law and the numbers are, therefore, not included in the figures shown above.

There is no immigrant labour.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

LEGISLATION.

92. Twenty-nine Ordinances were passed during the year, some of them being amending Ordinances, which call for no special comment.

93. The more important new Ordinances are :—

No. 1 of 1929.—Regulating the exportation of antiquities.

No. 2 of 1929.—Providing for the local registration of designs registered in the United Kingdom.

No. 19 of 1929.—Levying a new rate of Customs and Excise Duties.

No. 27 of 1929.—Repealing the old Quarantine Ordinance and bringing the legislation regulating quarantine in line with the requirements of the International Sanitary Convention signed at Paris on 21st June, 1926.

CLIMATE.

94. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

The annual rainfall at Belize was 113.57 inches.

95. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 28th September, when the thermometer registered 90.0° F., and 30th January, when it was at 57.0° F.

H. G. PILLING,
Colonial Secretary.

4th September, 1930.

APPENDIX.

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE.

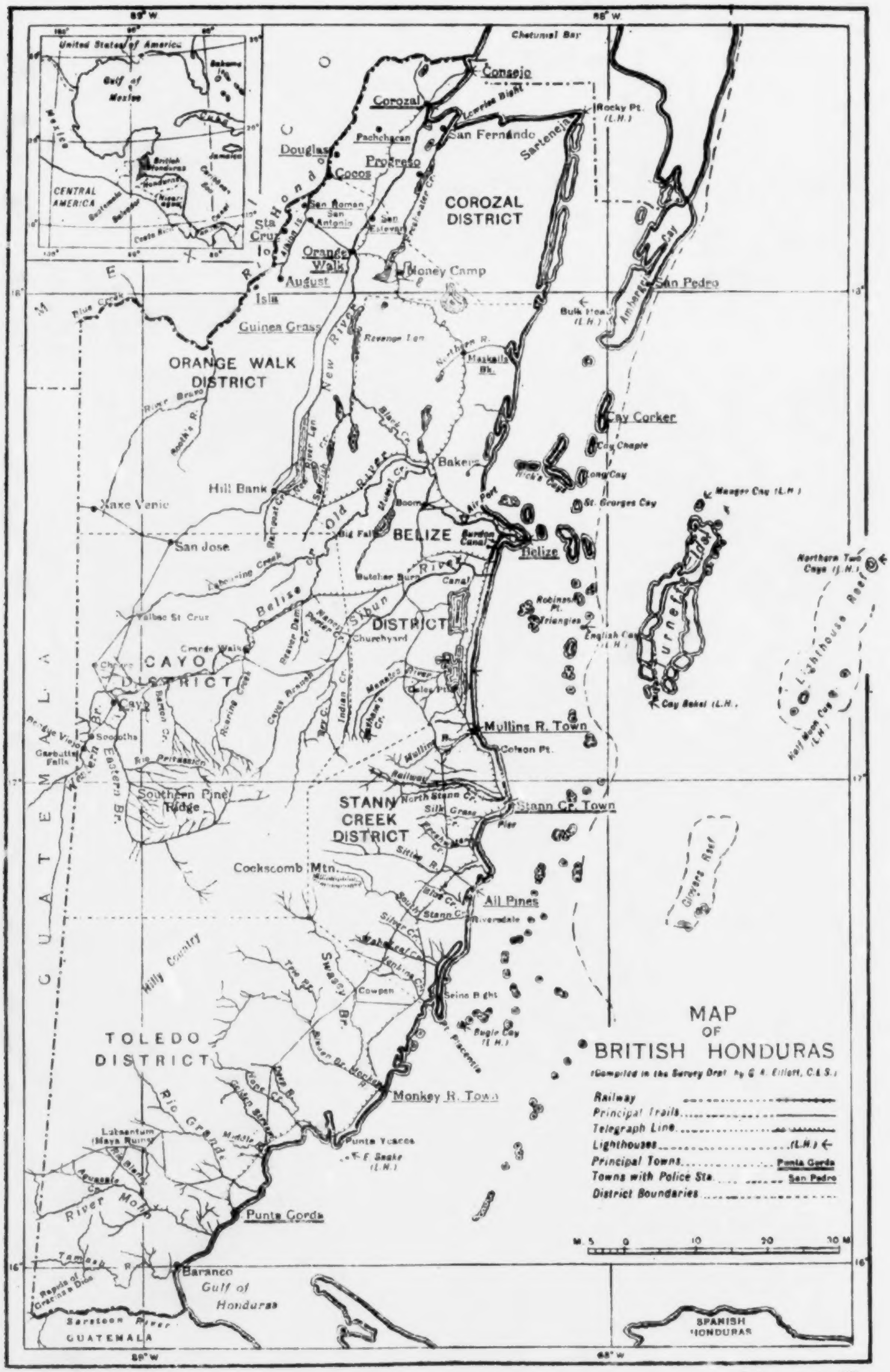
Product.	*Destination.*	*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*1929.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1929.*
		Quantity.	*Value. $*	*Quantity.*	*Value. $*	*Quantity.*	*Value. $*	*Quantity.*	*Value. $*	*Quantity.*	*Value. $*	
Mahogany Logs (S. ft.)	U.K. ...	3,087,255	362,730	1,513,487	189,186	2,411,826	265,771	2,637,622	338,133	1,286,242	160,780	—
	U.S.A. ...	6,312,979	660,985	13,736,928	1,189,328	18,689,523	1,730,775	11,138,283	963,610	12,861,862	1,099,075	—
	France ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	15,972	1,597	—	—	—
	Total ...	9,400,234	1,023,715	15,250,415	1,378,514	21,101,349	1,996,546	13,791,877	1,303,340	14,148,104	1,259,855	65·59
Mahogany Lumber ... (S. ft.)	U.K. ...	86,208	9,772	24,613	2,460	232,295	25,854	221,197	28,181	202,209	23,756	—
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	1,000	160	18,297	1,105	7,026	897	20,599	859	—
	Bahamas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,352	536	—
	Bermuda	106	20	—	—	8,755	1,461	—	—	—	—	—
	Canada ...	64,878	11,010	124,106	22,598	67,166	11,740	34,682	4,343	49,756	7,373	—
	N.Z. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,212	887	—
	Panama ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,000	396	—
	Total ...	145,192	20,802	149,719	25,218	326,513	40,160	262,905	33,421	285,128	33,807	1·76
Cedar Logs (S. ft.) ...	U.K. ...	66,798	6,915	37,642	4,705	42,629	4,577	26,493	2,441	12,911	1,426	—
	U.S.A. ...	214,052	23,148	244,308	20,431	689,210	47,002	377,113	25,264	675,853	48,613	—
	Total ...	280,850	30,063	281,950	25,136	731,839	51,579	403,606	27,705	688,764	50,039	2·60
Banak (S. ft.)	U.S.A. ...	377,920	10,356	355,256	12,434	10,454	143	—	—	—	—	—
Santa Maria	U.S.A. ...	111,716	2,793	159,103	5,569	540	32	—	—	—	—	—
Yemeri	U.S.A. ...	40,274	1,004	3,451	121	10,082	504	—	—	—	—	—
Other Hardwoods ...	U.S.A. ...	2,119	530	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Rosewood (Tons) ...	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	945	44	969	—
	U.S.A. ...	248	5,362	76	2,315	137	2,925	393	8,656	199	5,984	—
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	125	—
	Total ...	248	5,362	76	2,315	137	2,925	435	9,601	249	7,078	0·36
Pine Lumber (S. ft.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,225	599	—	—	—
	Guatemala	30,621	1,558	130,722	6,165	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Honduras	88,696	3,816	91,050	3,968	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Mexico ...	17,732	1,050	73,072	3,592	—	—	11,629	421	—	—	—
	Total ...	137,049	6,424	294,844	13,725	—	—	22,854	1,020	—	—	—
Logwood (Tons) ...	U.K. ...	269	6,725	186	4,510	332	8,405	322	7,364	220	5,986	—
	France ...	340	8,500	451	11,271	—	—	742	18,200	—	—	—
	Total ...	609	15,225	637	15,781	332	8,405	1,064	25,564	220	5,986	—
Chicle (Lb.)	U.S.A. ...	334,892	154,875	233,076	100,560	424,354	189,374	356,725	156,439	545,889	253,127	—
	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	9,738	4,382	24,712	11,525	14,998	6,240	—
	Canada ...	—	—	26,770	11,383	26,083	10,862	60,449	25,999	37,399	16,016	—
	Total ...	334,892	154,875	259,846	111,943	460,175	204,618	441,886	193,963	598,286	275,383	14·34
Hides and Skins (No.)	U.S.A. ...	258	153	1,939	1,554	2,297	3,915	2,103	6,651	2,554	5,699	0·29
Railway Sleepers (No.)	Jamaica...	—	—	—	—	—	—	840	1,600	—	—	—
Cohune Nuts	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,690	30	—
Forest Produce ...	*Total* ...	—	*1,271,302*	—	*1,592,310*	—	*2,308,827*	—	*1,602,865*	—	*1,637,877*	*85·25*
Coconuts (No.)	Canada ...	955,650	21,970	2,180,535	41,646	2,623,955	49,370	1,726,790	36,391	1,400,130	28,419	—
	U.S.A. ...	4,786,508	113,926	3,322,025	67,662	3,290,079	80,819	4,031,187	90,132	4,889,950	99,363	—
	Total ...	5,742,158	135,896	5,502,560	109,308	5,914,034	130,189	5,757,977	126,523	6,290,080	127,782	0·65

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE—*continued.*

Product.	*Destination.*	*1925.*		*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*1929.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1929.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Copra (Lb.)	U.K. ...	—	—	417,433	18,810	259,683	12,984	—	—	117,007	5,850	—
	U.S.A. ...	442,178	19,002	784,248	39,085	1,296,547	62,142	497,849	24,889	951,357	47,297	—
	Mexico ...	234,140	9,749	287,540	11,449	136,718	4,435	90,000	3,375	247,668	9,552	—
	Total ...	676,318	28,751	1,489,221	69,344	1,692,948	79,561	587,849	28,264	1,316,032	62,699	3·26
Bananas (Bunches) ...	U.S.A. ...	269,795	99,091	161,281	53,861	112,640	42,619	148,564	55,604	141,840	49,119	2·66
Plantains (No.) ...	U.S.A. ...	1,453,135	16,623	998,400	10,831	210,800	2,266	704,205	7,398	366,245	4,124	0·21
Rum (Gals.)	Honduras	1,540	1,540	348	348	5,758	5,987	1,235	1,235	500	500	—
	Nicaragua	4,256	4,256	5,718	5,738	1,330	1,299	7,072	7,072	8,901	8,901	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,872	1,872	—	—	—
	Cayman Is.	—	—	—	—	—	—	143	143	5,352	5,363	—
	Bahamas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	88	130	—
	Total ...	5,796	5,796	6,066	6,086	7,088	7,286	10,322	10,322	14,841	14,894	0·77
Grapefruit (No.) ...	U.K. ...	1,302	62	122,946	4,232	69,998	2,387	230,922	10,072	(cases) 2,427	8,509	—
	Bermuda	15,278	627	51,272	1,631	58,310	2,589	—	—	—	—	—
	Canada ...	50,503	1,978	144,214	4,896	59,830	2,604	13,764	563	459	1,744	—
	Br. Guiana	—	—	—	—	—	—	576	27	—	—	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	48	—
	Total ...	67,083	2,667	318,432	10,759	188,138	7,580	245,262	10,662	2,903	10,301	0·54

Oranges (No.)	U.K. ... Canada ... Guatemala	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	— — —	1,755 4,016 —	86 155 —	(cases) 41 11 5	177 29 14	— — —
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,771	241	57	220	0·01
Cacao Beans (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,891	964	—	—	—
Other Agricultural Produce.	U.K. and Jamaica.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	640	—	155	0·01
Agricultural Produce	*Total* ...	—	*288,824*	—	*260,189*	—	*269,501*	—	*240,668*	—	*269,294*	*14·02*
Lobsters (Canned) (Cases)	U.S.A. ... Mexico ...	3,827 —	19,595 —	2,249 —	18,888 —	2,922 —	15,952 —	1,214 —	6,190 —	20 20	120 } 110 }	0·01
Lobsters (Fresh) (No.) ...	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,225	156	0·01
Tortoiseshell Hawksbill (Lb.) ... Loggerhead (Lb.) ...	U.K. ... U.K. ...	2,798 894	19,361 295	2,974 1,881	16,957 542	2,984 —	12,414 —	1,625 1,738	7,916 600	1,802 —	8,876 —	— —
	Total ...	3,692	19,656	4,855	17,499	2,984	12,414	3,363	8,516	1,802	8,876	0·48
Sponges, Raw (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	247	193	333	218	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dried Turtle (Lb.) ...	Jamaica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	74	—
Shark Products (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,894	1,948	20,437	3,350	0·17
Marine Produce ...	*Total* ...	—	*39,444*	—	*36,605*	—	*23,366*	—	*16,654*	—	*12,686*	*0·67*
Unclassified	*Total* ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*1,234*	*0·06*
All Produce	**Total** ...	—	**1,599,570**	—	**1,889,104**	—	**2,606,694**	—	**1,860,187**	—	**1,921,091**	**100·00**


MAP
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept. by G. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.) ←
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M.
89° W
88° W
18°
17°
16°
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Douglas
Pachchacan
San Fernando
Progreso
Cocos
Sarteneja
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
COROZAL DISTRICT
San Roman
San Antonio
San Estevan
Sta Cruz
Orange Walk
August
Isla
Honey Camp
Rio Hondo
MEXICO
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bulk Head (L.H.)
Guinea Grass
Blue Creek
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
River Bravo
Booth's R.
New River
Revenge Lgn
Northern R.
Maskall Bk.
Cay Corker
Cay Chaple
Long Cay
Hick's Cay
St. Georges Cay
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Turneffe Islands
Lighthouse Reef
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
Robinson Pt.
Triangles
English Cay (L.H.)
Bakers
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Old River
Boom
Airport
Big Falls
BELIZE
Burdon Canal
Belize
Belize River
Butcher Burn
Sibun River
DISTRICT
Churchyard
Yalbac St. Cruz
Grande Walk
CAYO DISTRICT
Cayo
Succotz
Socoths
Garbutts Falls
Western Br.
Eastern Br.
Rio Frio
Roaring Creek
Southern Pine Ridge
Manatee River
Gales Pt.
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
Mullins R.
Railway
North Stann Cr.
Silk Grass
Stann Cr. Town
Pier
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Sittee R.
Cockscomb Mtn.
All Pines
South Stann Cr.
Riversdale
Silver Cr.
Glovers Reef
Hilly Country
Swasey Br.
Cowpen
Seine Bight
Bugle Cay (L.H.)
Placentia
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Rio Grande
Monkey R. Town
Punta Ycacos
F. Snake (L.H.)
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Barranco
Gulf of Honduras
Temash R.
Rapids of Gracias a Dios
Sarstoon River
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
Bahama Is.
Mexico
Cuba
Jamaica
British Honduras
Honduras
Guatemala
Salvador
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Caribbean Sea
CENTRAL AMERICA

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Ordnance Survey, 1927

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BRITISH HONDURAS

REPORT FOR 1930.

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BRITISH HONDURAS.

ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1930.

(With Financial Information up to 31st March, 1931).

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GEOGRAPHY.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north; by a straight line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-third the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and almost equal to the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together. There are numerous islands, called cayes, off the mainland, whose area is about 212 square miles. Some of these are inhabited by fishermen, and on others coco-nuts are grown, but many of them are mere swamps and are uninhabited.

2. The city of Belize, the capital of the Colony, is approached from the sea by a narrow tortuous channel between reefs which form a natural shelter for vessels lying in the harbour. Vessels have to lie off from the shore between one and four miles, according to their draught. There is no deep water at or near the Port of Corozal, so that only boats drawing about five feet of water can approach the Port. At Commerce Bight, near the town of Stann Creek, there is a railway pier, alongside of which vessels drawing up to 20 feet can lie. Two piers, privately owned, have been erected at All Pines and Riversdale in the Stann Creek District. These can accommodate vessels drawing 14 feet and 18 feet respectively. At Punta Gorda, the chief town in the Toledo District, deep water is found only some miles from the shore. The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of all tropical produce. The climate as a tropical one, is naturally very healthy, and in Belize, where the trade winds blow, pleasant for most of the year.

HISTORY.

3. It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. It is also probable that the great Cortez passed through the western part of the Colony on his expedition to Spanish Honduras in the year 1524. But long before Columbus and Cortez "Archaeologists say that the Maya people of Central America had developed the foremost civilization in the Western Hemisphere, and fifteen hundred years ago were in some respects the most advanced race in the world."

In the fields of mathematics and astronomy "they far surpassed any people who had ever existed before them, not excepting the Hindus, Greeks, Romans, and early Europeans. The Maya were the first of all peoples to invent the idea of zero and of place value in numbers (that is the theory of a decimal system) thus permitting them to multiply and divide at least six hundred years before this same idea was again discovered independently by the Hindus and from them, through the Arabs, carried to Europe."

4. So far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from

Jamaica visited [the] Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of His Britannic Majesty and those of the King of Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. Help was not wanting from outside. The Governor of Massachusetts on one occasion sent a British warship, H.M.S. *King George*, to help the settlers against their enemies. This was in the year 1667. Help was also received from the Mosquito Coast Indians and the Bay Island settlers. In 1670, Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by the Godolphin Treaty of the 8th July, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the settlement at this date amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow, and a creek on which he worked bears his name to this day. By 1671 the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

5. By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye, thus ending the century and a half of Spanish efforts at domination. At this battle the defenders were outnumbered by the Spaniards ; but fully cognizant of the horrors certain on defeat, and with indomitable courage, masters and slaves stood their ground against the invaders.

6. From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony until the year 1872.

7. The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people " founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

8. In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791–1797 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment, and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

9. The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1889 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance

No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all Ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

10. The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three ex-officio members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this report there were four unofficial members.

11. For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony.

12. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also ex-officio Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

13. Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health; markets; slaughter-houses; traffic regulation; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts; building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

14. There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

LANGUAGES.

15. English is the official language, but Spanish is spoken in some parts of the Colony, especially in the north, while there are many different dialects spoken by the Maya Indians. In the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts the Carib language prevails.

CURRENCY.

16. The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces, and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners, the gold and other securities by which it is secured being, for the time being, in the custody of the Royal Bank of Canada.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

17. The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Mecate	22 yards square.
1 Vara	11/12 of a yard.

I.—GENERAL.

18. On 13th September, 1930, the Governor and Lady Burden returned to the Colony after five months' absence on leave. While in England His Excellency attended the Colonial Office Conference in June and July. During the Governor's absence the Government was administered by Mr. H. G. Pilling, Colonial Secretary.

His Excellency's term of office was extended until the end of 1931 to enable him to complete certain work on the archives of the Colony.

19. The Annual Maya Exploration Expedition from the British Museum arrived in February under Captain E. L. Gruning and continued the investigation, started five years ago, of the Maya ruins of the Colony. The party continued excavations at the site of Pusilha in the Toledo District, especially on the south bank of the Pusilha River where a large complex of masonry and terracing was discovered last year. An illustrated report of the Expedition was published in the Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute, Volume LX, page 477.

The Colony abounds in most interesting ruins of the ancient Maya civilization and other archaeological expeditions have since been at work on behalf of various American Institutions.

20. In December, an aerial expedition to Central America under Percy C. Madeira, Jr., as Director, visited the Colony. The other members of the party were Dr. J. Alder Mason, Curator of the American Section of the Museum of the University of Pennsylvania, archaeologist; Gregory Mason, writer and archaeologist, of New York City, field leader; and Robert A. Smith of the Fairchild Aerial Survey Company of New York, photographer.

With Belize as a base most of the important Maya ruins of the Yucatan peninsula and Northern Guatemala were visited and examined.

21. A maximum grant of £6,000 from the Colonial Development Fund was made towards the cost of the trigonometrical survey from Belize to Garbutt's Falls on the western frontier.

22. A grant of £2,600 from the same Fund was also made to enable an experimental Station, under the Agricultural Department, to be established in the Stann Creek Valley.

23. The operations in connexion with the Turneffe Sponge Fishery have been continued with good results. A new step accomplished during the year was that of the establishment of a Government Depot not far from the headquarters of the Sponge Fishery, and planted at first to the number of 10,000 cuttings, for the supply of sponges to tenants at a future date. The chief aim in this step is not merely that of the supply of planting material to tenants, but particularly also the raising of the standard of the sponge stock by selective cultivation. Probably all wool and velvet sponges of Turneffe can provide material for a profitable enterprise to sponge-planting tenants, but the greater success of the industry will depend largely on the cultivation of those particular grades of sponges which are the most valuable for market purposes. In the planting of the Government Depot special attention is accordingly being given to this subject, with a view to the gradual increase of the more valuable grades later to be made available to tenants.

Concurrently with the planting of the new depot, the investigation of new areas suitable for leasing to tenants has been continued, leading already to the recent opening of two additional concessions. Both of these show good promise of success to the respective lessees, and though in certain cases, after such preliminary test, a ground has had to be abandoned as unsuitable for commercial planting, three of four other grounds at present under observation leave no cause to doubt that they will prove favourable for this purpose.

In the material planted from year to year as cuttings on the different natural grounds of the Lagoon for restoration of the depleted stock, growth has with few exceptions been very satisfactory throughout. For the many sponges required in the planting of the Government Depot in 1930, it was thus made possible to depend chiefly on this source of supply, and so largely to avoid further removal of the naturally growing sponges for this purpose. The recovery of the latter from the harmful results of over-fishing in the past cannot be expected for very many years to come. In the meantime, while for calls of the near future, stock for cultivation by planters is steadily being increased by artificial cultivation from planted cuttings, it is essential that the surviving natural sponges should as far as possible remain undisturbed for the later production of better grades for improvement of the standard of sponges in time to be brought under cultivation.

24. The Committee which was appointed last year under the chairmanship of the Governor to extract from the local archives, with a view to publication, all matters of historical value or human interest continued their labours during the year.

25. The Government Industrial School for Boys, at Pomona in the Stann Creek Valley, which was opened in March, 1927, continued to progress. Of the total area of 650 acres, 87 acres were under cultivation as at 31st March, 1931, of which 46 represent the grapefruit orchard, the remainder being devoted to tropical fruits and vegetables. Six hundred and ninety-eight cases of grapefruit were shipped, principally to the English market, during the year. There were 64 inmates at the end of the year. In addition to its normal objects, this Institution should serve a valuable purpose in training boys in agriculture and possibly, later on, in forestry.

A school dairy was established during 1929 and an electric lighting plant has since been installed. Valuable work is being done in connexion with the nurseries. During the year 1,650 young trees of standard grapefruit were distributed to planters throughout the Colony.

II.—FINANCE.

Revenue.

26. The revenue collected during the financial year ended 31st March, 1931, amounted to $1,160,444.98, which was $160,742.98 more than the Estimate and $124,377.36 more than the amount collected in the previous financial year.

Expenditure.

27. The expenditure for 1930–31 which was estimated at $1,036,304, amounted to $1,087,047.05, an excess of $50,743.05 over the Estimates and an increase of $63,444.37 over the year 1929–30.

28. The revenue and expenditure totals for the last six years are as follows :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1925–26	996,287	971,197
1926–27	1,116,432	1,040,490
1927–28	1,068,212	1,112,083
1928–29	1,039,666	1,046,877
1929–30	1,036,068	1,023,603
1930–31	1,160,445	1,087,047

Assets and Liabilities.

29. The assets of the Colony on 31st March, 1931, were $893,662.46 and liabilities $604,352.73, showing an excess of assets over liabilities of $289,309.73. The assets are chiefly investments on account of funds. The assets consisted of cash in fixed deposits and current accounts in the local bank and with the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London, unissued stores, investments in gilt-edged securities and sundry recoverable advances. The main liabilities represent amounts due to the Savings Bank and to sundry funds. The cash balances available amounted to $20,942.82.

The Colony possesses further assets in the form of Crown lands, estimated to amount to over two-and-a-half million acres, or nearly half the area of the Colony. The revenue derived from Crown lands during 1930–31 amounted to $32,206.08.

Public Debt.

30. At the close of the financial year the funded public debt of the Colony stood at $1,869,407.34. Against this liability there was an accumulated sinking fund of $163,984.28, as compared with $147,881.58 the previous year. Of the net proceeds amounting to $1,083,443 realised from a loan authorized by Chapter 32, Consolidated Laws, 1924, as amended by Ordinance 13 of 1928, to meet the cost of certain public works and forestry development, the sum of $1,081,371.99 has been expended to date.

Government Savings Bank.

31. The Government Savings Bank is a sub-department of the Treasury. Branches are established in each of the five out-districts, the head office being in Belize. The Bank had a sum of $235,234.86 to the credit of 1,498 depositors on 31st March, 1931, against $213,187.98 to the credit of 1,474 depositors in the previous year.

The amount invested as at 31st March, 1931, was $186,235.43 and the interest on investments was $8,249.44. Interest is paid at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum, and the interest credited to depositors during 1930-31 was $7,152.64.

III.—PRODUCTION.

32. The productive industries of the Colony in order of importance are forestry, agriculture, and fisheries, no minerals having as yet been discovered in paying quantities. The relative production of these three industries may be gauged by the percentage exports, by value, of each class of produce, which in the year under report were as follows :—

Forest produce	85·09	per cent.
Agricultural produce	14·40	,,
Marine produce	·48	,,
Unclassified produce	·03	,,

These figures relate only to produce of domestic origin.

33. The accompanying statement* shows in comprehensive form the exports of the important classes of produce of domestic origin to regular markets during the five calendar years ending with 1930.

34. Exports of forest produce were predominantly of mahogany (*Swietenia macrophylla* King), cedar (*Cedrela mexicana* Roem) and chicle. The export of living animals as a minor forest product is noted in the statement for the first time, a considerable number of animals having been shipped.

35. The exports of mahogany to the United Kingdom decreased to half the amount exported in 1929 and to a quarter of the 1928 export. The exports to the United States of America were also lower, although prices showed but little decline. Heavy and early rains curtailing operations and a decreased demand are the reasons for the total decrease in this export. Cedar was similarly affected.

36. The holding of large stocks of chicle in the United States of America and the consequent poor demand are reflected in the decrease in exports of chicle to three-fifths of the exports in the previous year.

37. Pine (*Pinus caribaea* Mor.) was not exported during the year but several small mills were in operation producing woods for local consumption.

38. The Company occupied in the Toledo District in the utilization of the cohune nut (*Attalea Cohune* Morris) have concentrated to date on silvicultural, constructional, and cruising operations, and the husking and cracking plant has not yet been erected.

39. The market for rosewood (*Dalbergia Stevensonii* Standl.) was reduced considerably during the year.

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* *See* page 24.

40. The production of logwood (*Haematoxylon campechianum* L.) equalled that of the previous year at a slightly lower value. The market is distinctly limited.

41. Coco-nuts still remain the principal agricultural crop grown and exported. There was a considerable decrease in the export of coco-nuts and a considerable increase in copra for the year. The slump in the foreign markets is the cause for decrease in the export of coco-nuts.

42. Shipment of bananas fell slightly during the year. This crop will tend to rise and fall and cannot be relied upon to take a high place in agriculture. Now that provision has been made for the establishment of an Agricultural Station attention will be given to finding suitable crops to take the place of the banana.

43. Owing to the decreasing demand from outside for plantains there was a slight decrease in the export figures over those of last year. However, the local demand for this fruit is heavy and all that is grown could be consumed in the Colony with ease.

44. The export figures for distillation of rum show a slight decrease over those of last year. The cane-growing industry has not improved and will not do so until systematic and more up-to-date and economical methods are employed. It is to be hoped that the Department of Agriculture will, at not too distant a date, be given facilities for undertaking this and similar work.

45. Gradual expansion is taking place in the planting of grapefruit, mainly in the North Stann Creek Valley, with small plantings in the Toledo and Corozal Districts, also on the Belize and Sibun Rivers. No new groves came into commercial bearings during the year. All new plantings have been confined to the Marsh Seedless and Duncan varieties. For the period under review, shipments show an increase over those of last year. Shipments to Canada were increased, with the object of gradually working up a Canadian trade, now that better shipping facilities have been afforded. The bulk of these shipments consisted of Native Seedling fruit and the reception of this fruit was most encouraging. However, it is evident that before any advance can be made in shipping seedlings much selection work will be necessary. Again shipment to the Lister Institute for vitamin testing was continued. British Honduras grapefruit won the Gold Medal at the Imperial Fruit Show for the third year in succession. Owing to the outbreak of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis Capitate*) in Florida, imported citrus fruits were subjected to thorough examination before being allowed out of bond. Up to date this pest has not been reported.

46. More interest has been taken in the growing of vegetables. There is, however, room for much improvement in the matter of varieties, cultural methods, and marketing. The bulk of the vegetable gardens are situated on the river banks near Belize.

47. No improvement has taken place in the lobster-canning industry due mainly to labour difficulties. The export figures for fresh lobsters show a considerable decrease over those of last year. The shipment during the year under review was confined to Spanish Honduras for the first time. Last year the shipment was confined to Guatemala only.

48. The export figures of shark products show a decrease over those of last year.

IV.—TRADE AND ECONOMICS.

49. Although wood operations were curtailed in 1930, the practice, which obtains locally, of contracting ahead for the year's output of our principal products of mahogany, cedar, and chicle resulted in the Colony being less affected by the universal depression during the year than most other countries. The complete change and rapid decline in our trade which made itself felt with the advent of 1931, however, has forcibly demonstrated that our apparent partial immunity was only a passing phase of very brief duration and the urgent necessity of having to combat a very serious and heavy adverse financial tide—in line with the world in general—had simply been temporarily retarded.

50. The total trade of the Colony amounted to $9,460,293 which was less by $473,255 than the total of $9,933,548 in 1929. It was largely in excess, however, of the totals for the four years previous.

51. The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table :—

	1926.	*1927.*	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	5,065,663	4,534,804	4,481,748	5,056,673	4,925,330
Exports	3,928,790	4,547,528	4,041,502	4,876,875	4,534,963
Trade	8,994,453	9,082,332	8,523,250	9,933,548	9,460,293

52. The import trade from Canada continues to show steady progress and the percentage in 1930 had increased to 24·14 per cent. from 21·86 per cent. in 1929. The table following gives comparative percentages of the Empire trade compared with the United States of America and other foreign countries during the years 1920 and 1930 :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1930.	1920.	1930.	1920.	1930.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17·45	40·09	14·88	35·50	16·17	37·89
United States of America	60·44	35·13	78·18	59·73	69·31	46·92
Other Countries	22·11	24·78	6·94	4·77	14·52	15·19

Imports.

53. The total of the imports in 1930 was $4,925,330 as against $5,056,673 in 1929; a decrease of $131,343.

54. The direction of the import trade during the years 1926–1930 is shown in the following table :—

	1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	858,149	16·94	689,528	15·25	834,681	18·62	888,406	17·57	687,324	13·95
Canada	532,392	10·51	599,105	13·21	792,411	17·68	1,105,403	21·86	1,188,837	24·14
Other British Possessions.	98,029	1·94	101,406	2·23	66,640	1·49	82,456	1·63	98,653	2·00
United States of America	2,375,428	46·89	2,093,237	46·15	1,795,669	40·07	1,992,670	39·41	1,730,051	35·13
Mexico...	612,998	12·10	546,276	12·04	528,292	11·78	410,239	8·11	563,983	11·45
Other Countries ...	588,667	11·62	505,252	11·12	464,055	10·36	577,499	11·42	656,582	13·33

Exports.

55. **Exports amounted to $4,534,963 in 1930 or $341,912** less than the total **of** $4,876,875 in 1929.

56. The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1926–1930 :—

	1926.		1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	245,502	6·25	357,618	7·86	439,505	10·88	324,009	6·65	153,379	3·38
Canada	206,635	5·26	145,759	3·21	294,767	7·29	233,671	4·79	331,720	7·31
Other British Possessions.	2,565	·07	96,620	2·12	413,643	10·23	599,519	12·29	1,125,000	24·81
United States of America.	3,208,006	81·65	3,716,299	81·72	2,718,198	67·26	3,485,061	71·46	2,708,674	59·73
Other Countries ...	266,082	6·77	231,232	5·09	175,389	4·34	234,615	4·81	216,190	4·77

57. Due to curtailment in operations the mahogany exports were less than those in previous years and re-exports were nil. The direction of the exports of mahogany during the five years 1926–1930 was as follows :—

	1926. *S. Feet.*	1927. *S. Feet.*	1928. *S. Feet.*	1929. *S. Feet.*	1930. *S. Feet.*
Domestic Exports to—					
United Kingdom	1,513,487	2,411,826	2,637,622	1,286,242	589,283
France	—	—	15,972	—	—
United States of America ...	13,738,929	18,689,523	11,138,283	12,861,862	10,240,048
Sub-total	15,252,415	21,101,349	13,791,877	14,148,104	10,829,331
Re-exports to—					
United States of America ...	3,624,964	3,493,122	2,570,403	2,330,076	—
Total	18,745,537	24,726,313	16,362,280	16,478,180	10,829,331

Shipping.

58. A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 625,960, an increase of 688 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,658	76,982	78,640
United States of America ...	13	93,867	93,880
Other	1,757	139,310	141,067
Total ...	3,428	310,159	313,587

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and Motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,862	77,127	78,989
United States of America ...	—	94,435	94,435
Other	1,693	137,256	138,949
Total ...	3,555	308,818	312,373

59. The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1926	316,663	319,238	635,906
1927	341,063	337,714	679,317
1928	291,451	288,427	579,878
1929	312,581	312,691	625,272
1930	313,587	312,373	625,960

60. Three sailing and three motor boats were registered during the year. The total registered tonnage at the end of 1930 was 2,091 tons.

V.—COMMUNICATIONS.

61. There is frequent communication between the towns and villages along the coast by sailing and motor boats, and by the latter on the rivers. Improved mail and passenger services by motor vessels were established during 1923, between Belize, Corozal, Orange Walk, and between Belize, Stann Creek, All Pines, Monkey River, and Punta Gorda. These services are subsidized by Government and mails are carried under contract. The fertile Stann Creek Valley is tapped by a short railway line from the sea coast at Stann Creek to a point 25 miles inland.

62. External communication is provided weekly with New Orleans or Mobile, and monthly from New York and New Orleans (the latter southward bound only) by the steamers of the United Fruit Company. The Canadian National Steamships conduct a fortnightly service between Belize and Jamaica connecting with their service to Canada via Bahamas and Bermuda ; and the

Harrison Line a four-weekly service (approximate) from Liverpool. The latter sailings are subject to variation in date, and the voyage to Belize covers a period of from five to six weeks, the steamers proceeding from Liverpool to the West Indies, and sometimes to the Spanish Main and Central American ports, making Belize their last port of call. The same line runs an occasional steamer to carry mahogany to London. Mails from London reach Belize via New York and alternately New Orleans and Mobile in about fifteen days. In addition to this route there is good passenger connexion between Great Britain and the Colony by the steamers of the Elders and Fyffes Line to Kingston, Jamaica, and thence by steamers of the Canadian National Steamships to Belize.

63. Communication by sailing vessels with the neighbouring republics is frequent.

64. The tri-weekly air mail and passenger service by the Pan American Airways, Inc. between the United States and the Canal Zone, with Belize as an overnight stopping place, continued during the year.

The service was reduced to a bi-weekly one as from the 29th April, 1931.

Roads.

65. The Colony is in need of roads. The deficiency in this respect is due to the heavy expense involved, to the low-lying topography of the country adjoining Belize and extending for a considerable distance inland, to the sparse and widely scattered population and the nature of the forest produce on which the Colony has hereto depended for its resources, and to the numerous rivers and creeks.

There are a few miles of improved roads near Belize, Corozal, Cayo, and Punta Gorda, but no communication exists for wheeled vehicles between any of these places. The roads shown on the map of the Colony are mostly indifferent bush tracks or bridle paths only.

An earth road is at present being graded with the object of ultimately connecting Belize with Cayo, a point of some importance near the Frontier situated some 90 miles up the Belize River.

The portion of this road leaving Belize and crossing the swamp lands has been graded and is now being metalled. The total expenditure on roads was $39,660.

Telegraphs and Telephones.

66. The postal telegraph system is a Government institution. There are about 925 miles of lines, with 32 offices, the same as in 1929, no extension of the system having been effected during the year.

67. There is one telephone exchange in Belize, with 300 subscribers.

Radio-Telegraphs.

68. The installations in use at the Radio-Telegraph Station, Belize, consist of (*a*) 25 Kw. Arc Transmitter, type 18; (*b*) 5 Kw. Quenched Spark Transmitter (Wireless Speciality Apparatus). The arc functions on 2,400 and 3,300 metre wave-lengths, its average range of operation under good conditions being 2,000 miles. The quenched spark transmitter makes use of 600 and 1,550 metre wave-lengths, all commercial and Government traffic being handled on the 1,550 metre wave.

69. Ship traffic is dealt with on the 600 metre wave, the hours of watch being given below.

70. The range of the quenched spark transmitter is 1,000 miles on the 1,550 metre wave, and 400 miles on the 600 metre wave.

71. In addition to handling every type of public traffic the station transmits special weather reports to Washington daily at 12.30 hours and 23.15 hours G.M.T. from 1st June to 30th November on a 1,550 metre wave-length.

72. Public traffic is accepted by the station between the hours of 12.00 and 15.00 G.M.T.

73. Watch on 600 metres is maintained at the following times, G.M.T. :—

12.45 to 13.00 hrs.
14.30 to 14.45 hrs.
16.00 to 16.10 hrs.
17.30 to 17.45 hrs.
18.30 to 19.00 hrs.
19.30 to 19.45 hrs.
21.00 to 21.10 hrs.
22.30 to 23.00 hrs.
23.30 to 00.30 hrs.
01.45 to 02.00 hrs.

VI.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

74. Justice is administered by the Supreme Court of British Honduras and by the District Commissioners' Courts, subject to appeal to, and review by, the Supreme Court.

75. During the year the Supreme Court dealt with 60 civil matters as against 61 in the preceding year, and heard 6 actions and 1 appeal.

One petition in bankruptcy was presented during the year. The usual Sessions were held at Corozal in March, June, September, and December.

76. Thirty-one criminal cases came before the Court, excluding reviews of judgments in the lower Court.

77. The following figures show the convictions for the more serious crimes :—

Murder	1
Manslaughter	2
Arson	Nil
Forgery	Nil
Perjury	Nil
Housebreaking	3
Burglary	Nil
Rape and attempted rape	1
Indecent assault	1
Grievous harm	Nil

Of the total number of persons accused of crime, 61 per cent. were convicted.

Police.

78. The strength of the British Honduras Police Force on 31st December, 1930, was 3 officers, 19 non-commissioned officers, and 98 constables.

In addition to their ordinary police duties, members of the Force when stationed in the out-districts, act as officers of customs, telephone operators, postal clerks, keepers of prisons, school officers, public vaccinators, attesting officers under the labour law, and in various other capacities.

The expenditure on the Force during the financial year 1930–31 was $105,577.00. The cost of police per man is $872.54 ; the cost per head of population is $2.03.

Prisons.

79. There is one central prison, at Belize, and five local prisons, one in each of the out-districts. During the year, 200 persons were committed to the Belize Prison, of these 3 were sentenced to 2 years' hard labour, 3 to 3 years, 1 to 4, 1 to 5 ; one was sentenced to be executed. The daily population of the Belize Prison averaged 42, one less than the previous year.

The number of juveniles admitted was 50 males and 8 females, as compared with 43 males and 8 females during the year 1929. There is no accommodation for the proper separation of youthful offenders, but those under the age of 17 are kept apart as much as possible and are put to work under the direct supervision of an officer.

The Medical Officer examined all prisoners on admission before being classified for labour, as well as daily applicants. The general health of the prisoners was good. Two were admitted to the public hospital for treatment. There were no deaths during the year.

VII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

80. During the year the accommodation of the Customs sheds has been doubled by the provision of additional sheds and a wharf. Additional storage capacity has been added to the Inflammable Liquids Warehouses and Government Bonded Warehouses, and modern lifting appliances and racks provided. A new and adequate Telephone Exchange has been constructed. The Pier at Punta Gorda was extended to deep water. Accommodation for Nurses has been provided at Corozal and Punta Gorda Hospitals. New Police Stations have been erected at Consejo and Corozal.

The expenditure on maintenance of Government buildings was $15,600, and on extensions and new works $33,040.

VIII.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

81. The vital statistics, generally, show a slight trend in the right direction.

The Colony compares very favourably with British possessions in this part of the world, the birth-rate being 36·61 as compared with 37·25 the highest and 23·9 the lowest; while the death-rate is 19·19 against 27·9 the highest and 12·6 the lowest.

The infant mortality rate is still more favourable being 100·9 per 1,000 as compared with 185 and 100, respectively.

Much credit for the comparatively low infant mortality is due to the greatly improved standard in nursing which has gradually been obtained throughout the Colony during the last 10 years, to the knowledge obtained by mothers in the new maternity hospital and to the fine voluntary work being done by the Infant Welfare League in Belize, in which town, about one-third of the total births take place.

Tuberculosis shows a steady increase and will probably continue to do so until more active measures are taken to arrest its spread.

Cancer was responsible for 14 deaths or 2·9 as against 24 deaths in 1929.

Enteric fever is very rare, only three sporadic cases having occurred during the year.

Dysentery is still fairly common, 16 deaths being recorded of which 12 were bacillary.

82. The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in the Colony necessitates considerable storage of rain-water in tanks, vats, barrels, and other receptacles, with consequent stegomyia breeding.

The sanitary staff have been engaged in frequent inspections in order to detect the presence or absence of mosquito larvae in these receptacles.

Arrivals in the Colony from Guatemala, Mexico, and Spanish Honduras are all subjected to medical surveillance on landing, but owing to the length of our coast-line and boundaries it is safe to assume that evasions frequently occur ; and therein lies a great source of danger, necessitating the reduction of the stegomyia index to a vanishing point.

Screening of water receptacles is not universally practised as a preventive measure ; while it is the most effective, it is the most expensive. The use of larvivorous fish is by far the most commonly used anti-stegomyia measure. It is both cheap and effective. Oiling is an effective measure which is also frequently used.

83. The destruction of crabs by means of Cyanogas was continued during the year. The results have been satisfactory. Crabs are temporarily decreased in number and so are also crab holes, sheltering places of mosquitoes and sandflies. It is necessary that this work of destruction should be carried on with increased rather than diminished vigour if the results so far obtained are to be permanent. It is also necessary that this work of crab destruction should not be carried out at the expense of other more important work. The present staff of Sanitary Inspectors is inadequate to do all that ought to be done.

Vital Statistics.

84. The population of the Colony at the end of 1930 is estimated at 52,136. In all the Districts there is an excess of births over deaths, and there is an increase in the population of each District. The birth-rate of the Colony is 36·615 per thousand and the death-rate 19·199 per thousand. The infantile mortality rate for the Colony was 10·95 per hundred, as compared with 12·95 in 1929.

IX.—EDUCATION.

Elementary Education.

85. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is seventy-five, fifty-four being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize where a civilian is employed ; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied. Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the teaching staff of the schools, which are regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years. Government contribution to the cost of elementary education for the year was $77,795.88. The cost *per capita* to Government, based on average attendance, was $13.34.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 75; one hundred and forty-eight teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 6,975, of whom 3,531 were boys and 3,444 girls.

Secondary Education.

86. Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connection with the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the Diocesan High Schools for Boys and Girls conducted by the Anglican Church, St. John's College conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, and St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy. These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at the annual Cambridge Local examinations, which, during the year, amounted to $1,650.00.

X.—LANDS AND SURVEY.

87. During the financial year 1930–31, 113 applications for leases of 2,734 acres of agricultural land, and 85 applications for leases of 110 town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. Thirty-five acres of agricultural land were sold to four applicants for $105·37 and six town and village lots were sold to six applicants for $501·64. Sixty acres of agricultural land and two town and village lots were granted free. Ninety-nine titles for 101 town and village lots and three titles for 31,413 acres of agricultural land were issued, including one grant of 31,390 acres. One licence to cultivate sponges at Turneffe was issued.

88. Further progress upon the trigonometrical survey was made. The computation of the triangles between Manatee and Garbutt's Falls was completed and disclosed a very satisfactory degree of error: 0·145 feet between the measurements of the two bases, and 3·36 seconds in the reproduction of one azimuth upon the other, with a mean triangular error of 2·5 seconds. The triangulation was continued down the coast, and inland to the southern end of the Guatemalan Frontier, in order to connect the terminal points, Garbutt's Falls and Sarstoon, in preparation for the opening of that portion of the Frontier Line. Twenty-four stations were established and four wide lines of sight opened between stations. A check base was located and cleared at Sarstoon River, but had not been measured at the close of the year.

The survey with levels of the road from Punta Gorda to San Pedro and San Antonio was made, also various surveys of boundary lines.

XI.—LABOUR.

89. The demand for mahogany, the Colony's staple product, was less this year than in 1929. The chicle market was inactive, and, on the whole, there was more unemployment than in the previous year.

90. The following table shows the number of men employed under the Labour Ordinance during the hiring season 1930–31, there being a decrease of 203 as compared with the previous year, and 339 as against the year 1928–29 :—

Timber operations	423
Agriculture	206
Total... ...	629

It may be explained here that few of the men engaged in chicle operations are employed under the labour law and the numbers are, therefore, not included in the figures shown above.

There is no immigrant labour.

XII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Legislation.

91. Ten Ordinances were passed during the year, most of which were amending Ordinances, which call for no special comment.

Climate.

92. The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy.

The annual rainfall at Belize was 84·73 inches.

93. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 27th May and 7th September, when the thermometer registered 89.0° F., and 24th December, when it was at 59.0° F.

H. G. PILLING,
Colonial Secretary.

11*th November*, 1931.

APPENDIX.

Exports of Produce (1926–1930).

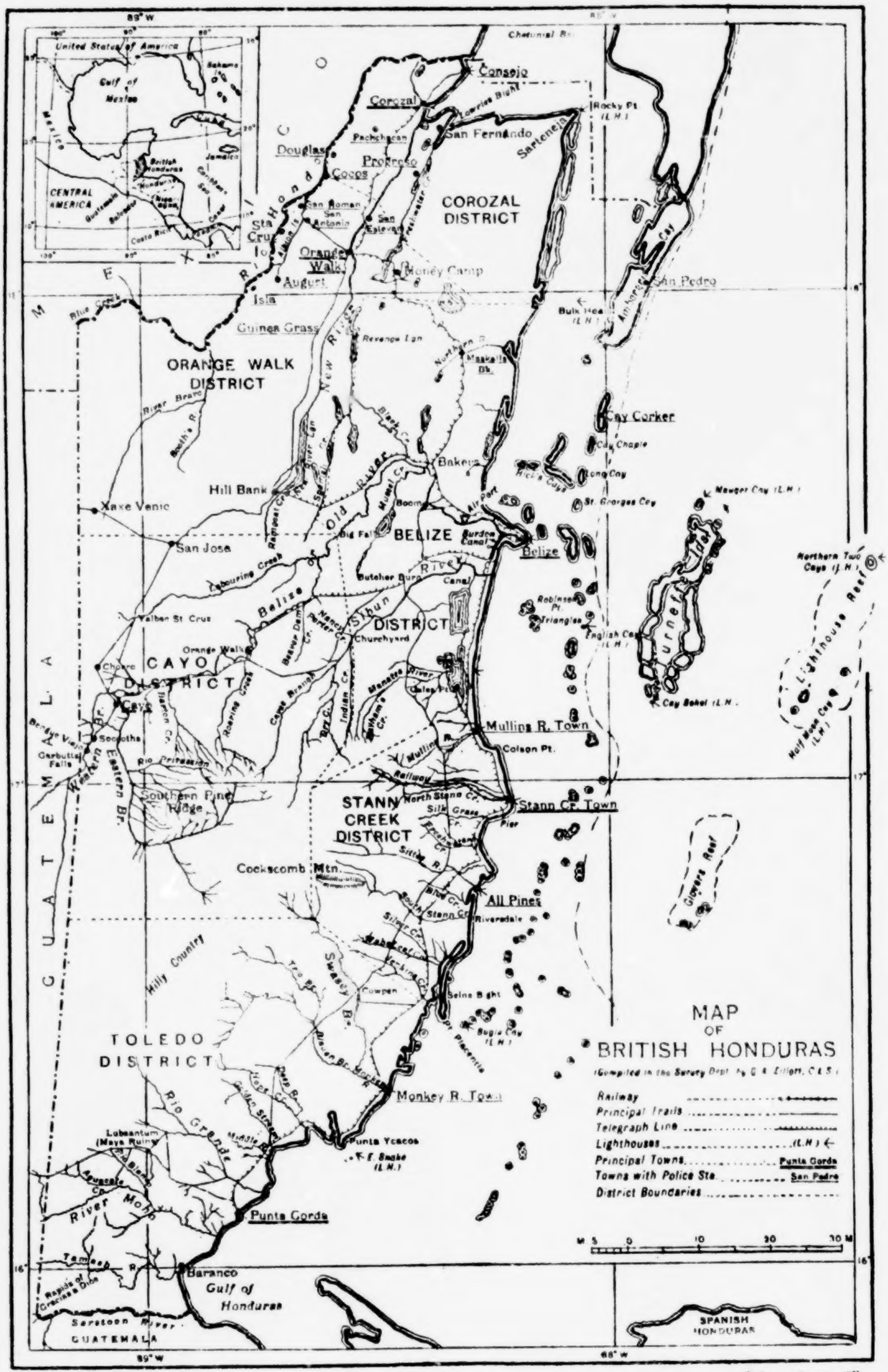
Product.	*Destination.*	*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*1929.*		*1930.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1930.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Mahogany Logs (S. ft.)	U.K. ...	1,513,487	189,186	2,411,826	265,771	2,637,622	338,133	1,286,242	160,780	589,283	76,607	—
	U.S.A. ...	13,736,928	1,189,328	18,689,523	1,730,775	11,138,283	963,610	12,861,862	1,099,075	10,240,048	885,955	—
	France ...	—	—	—	—	15,972	1,597	—	—	—	—	—
	Total ...	15,250,415	1,378,514	21,101,349	1,996,546	13,791,877	1,303,340	14,148,104	1,259,855	10,829,331	962,562	68·6
Mahogany Lumber ... (S. ft.)	U.K. ...	24,613	2,460	232,295	25,854	221,197	28,181	202,209	23,756	91,271	8,136	—
	U.S.A. ...	1,000	160	18,297	1,105	7,026	897	20,599	859	5,740	241	—
	Bahamas	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,352	536	—	—	—
	Bermuda	—	—	8,755	1,461	—	—	—	—	2,032	382	—
	Jamaica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19,568	3,145	—
	Canada ...	124,106	22,598	67,166	11,740	34,682	4,343	49,756	7,373	26,962	4,449	—
	N.Z. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,212	887	—	—	—
	Panama ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,000	396	—	—	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	823	132	—
	Total ...	149,719	25,218	326,513	40,160	262,905	33,421	285,118	33,807	146,396	16,485	1·18
Cedar Logs (S. ft.) ...	U.K. ...	37,642	4,705	42,629	4,577	26,493	2,441	12,911	1,426	6,921	692	—
	U.S.A. ...	244,308	20,431	689,210	47,002	377,113	25,264	675,853	48,613	375,367	27,566	—
	Total ...	281,950	25,136	731,839	51,579	403,606	27,705	688,764	50,039	382,288	28,258	2·01
Cedar Lumber (S. ft.) ...	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,096	310	·02
Banak (S. ft.)	U.S.A. ...	355,256	12,434	10,454	143	—	—	—	—	U.K. 178	20	—
Santa Maria (S. ft.)	U.S.A. ...	159,103	5,569	540	32	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yemeri (S. ft.)	U.S.A. ...	3,451	121	10,082	504	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Hardwoods (S. ft.)	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Rosewood (Tons) ...	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	42	945	44	969	12	270	—
	U.S.A. ...	76	2,315	137	2,925	393	8,656	199	5,984	50	1,600	—
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	125	—	—	—
	Total ...	76	2,315	137	2,925	435	9,601	249	7,078	62	1,870	·13
Pine Lumber (S. ft.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	11,225	599	—	—	—	—	—
	Guatemala	130,722	6,165	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Honduras	91,050	3,968	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Mexico ...	73,072	3,592	—	—	11,629	421	—	—	—	—	—
	Total ...	294,844	13,725	—	—	22,854	1,020	—	—	—	—	—
Logwood (Tons) ...	U.K. ...	186	4,510	332	8,405	322	7,364	220	5,986	180	4,500	—
	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	420	—
	France ...	451	11,271	—	—	742	18,200	—	—	17	210	—
	Total ...	637	15,781	332	8,405	1,064	25,564	220	5,986	225	5,130	·37
Chicle (Lb.)	U.K. ...	—	—	9,738	4,382	24,712	11,525	14,998	6,240	8,470	4,047	—
	U.S.A. ...	233,076	100,560	424,354	189,374	356,725	156,439	545,889	253,127	282,899	129,724	—
	Canada ...	26,770	11,383	26,083	10,862	60,449	25,999	37,399	16,016	70,757	32,341	—
	Holland ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,282	5,641	—
	Total ...	259,846	111,943	460,175	204,618	441,886	193,963	598,286	275,383	373,408	171,753	12·24
Hides and Skins (No.)	U.S.A. ...	1,939	1,554	2,297	3,915	2,103	6,651	2,554	5,699	5,014	7,075	·50
Living Animals (No.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,026	593	·04
Railway Sleepers (No.)	Jamaica ...	—	—	—	—	840	1,666	—	—	—	—	—
Cohune Nuts	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	No. 6,690	30	Lb. 2,574	27	—
Forest Produce ...	*Total* ...	—	*1,592,310*	—	*2,308,827*	—	*1,602,865*	—	*1,637,877*	—	*1,194,083*	*85·09*
Coco-nuts (No.)	Canada ...	2,180,535	41,646	2,623,955	49,370	1,726,790	36,391	1,400,130	28,419	1,402,680	17,919	—
	U.S.A. ...	3,322,025	67,662	3,290,079	80,819	4,031,187	90,132	4,889,950	99,363	3,357,455	50,650	—
	Total ...	5,502,560	109,308	5,914,034	130,189	5,757,977	126,523	6,290,080	127,782	4,760,135	68,569	4·89

EXPORTS OF PRODUCE—*continued.*

Product.	*Destination.*	*1926.*		*1927.*		*1928.*		*1929.*		*1930.*		*Percentage by value of all Produce for 1930.*
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	
Copra (Lb.)	U.K. ...	417,433	18,810	259,683	12,984	—	—	117,007	5,850	—	—	—
	U.S.A. ...	784,248	39,085	1,296,547	62,142	497,849	24,889	951,357	47,297	1,358,870	63,004	—
	Mexico ...	287,540	11,449	136,718	4,435	90,060	3,375	247,668	9,552	294,426	8,861	—
	Total ...	1,489,221	69,344	1,692,948	79,561	587,849	28,264	1,316,032	62,699	1,653,296	71,865	5·12
Bananas (Bunches) ...	U.S.A. ...	161,281	53,861	112,640	42,619	148,564	55,604	141,840	49,119	89,934	32,087	2·29
Plantains (No.) ...	U.S.A. ...	998,400	10,831	210,800	2,266	704,205	7,398	366,245	4,124	—	—	—
	Honduras	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,000	22	—
	Total ...	998,400	10,831	210,800	2,266	704,205	7,398	366,245	4,124	3,000	22	—
Rum (Gals.)	Honduras	348	348	5,758	5,987	1,235	1,235	500	500	—	—	—
	Nicaragua	5,718	5,738	1,330	1,299	7,072	7,072	8,901	8,901	—	—	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	1,872	1,872	—	—	293	293	—
	Cayman Is.	—	—	—	—	143	143	5,352	5,363	13,872	13,872	—
	Bahamas	—	—	—	—	—	—	88	130	—	—	—
	Total ...	6,066	6,086	7,088	7,286	10,322	10,322	14,841	14,894	14,165	14,165	1·01
Grapefruit ... ... (1926-28 No.). (1929-30 Cases).	U.K. ...	122,946	4,232	69,998	2,387	230,922	10,072	2,427	8,509	3,510	12,079	—
	Bermuda	51,272	1,631	58,310	2,589	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Canada ...	144,214	4,896	59,830	2,604	13,764	563	459	1,744	757	2,874	—
	Br. Guiana	—	—	—	—	576	27	—	—	—	—	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	17	48	—	—	—
	Total ...	318,432	10,759	188,138	7,580	245,262	10,662	2,903	10,301	4,267	14,953	1·06
Oranges ... ... (1926-28 No.). (1929-30 Cases).	U.K. ...	—	—	—	—	1,755	86	41	177	—	—	—
	Canada ...	—	—	—	—	4,016	155	11	29	—	—	—
	Guatemala	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	14	—	—	—
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	5,771	241	57	220	—	—	—

Cacao Beans (Lb.) ...	U.K. ... U.S.A. ...	— —	— —	— —	— —	— 5,891	— 964	— —	— —	602 —	75 —	— —
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	5,891	964	—	—	602	75	—
Other Agricultural Produce.	—	—	—	—	—	—	640	—	155	—	479	·03
Agricultural Produce	*Total* ...	—	*260,189*	—	*269,501*	—	*240,668*	—	*269,294*	—	*202,215*	*14·40*
Lobsters (Canned) (Cases)	U.S.A. ... Mexico ...	2,249 —	18,888 —	2,922 —	15,952 —	1,214 —	6,190 —	20 20	120 110	— —	— —	— —
	Total ...	2,249	18,888	2,922	15,952	1,214	6,190	40	230	—	—	—
Lobsters (Fresh) (No.)...	Guatemala Honduras	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	— —	2,225 —	156 —	— 535	— 132	— —
	Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,225	156	535	132	·01
Tortoiseshell: Hawksbill (Lb.) ... Loggerhead (Lb.) ...	 U.K. ... U.K. ...	 2,974 1,881	 16,957 542	 2,984 —	 12,414 —	 1,625 1,738	 7,916 600	 1,802 —	 8,876 —	 887 —	 3,416 —	 — —
	Total ...	4,855	17,499	2,984	12,414	3,363	8,516	1,802	8,876	887	3,416	·25
Turtle (Dried) (Lb.) ...	Jamaica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	74	108	80	—
Sponges (Raw) (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	333	218	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Shark Products (Lb.) ...	U.S.A. ...	—	—	—	—	8,894	1,948	20,437	3,350	16,849	3,120	·22
Marine Produce ...	*Total* ...	—	*36,605*	—	*28,366*	—	*16,654*	—	*12,686*	—	*6,748*	*·48*
Unclassified	*Total* ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*1,234*	—	*500*	*·03*
All Produce	**Total** ...	—	**1,889,104**	—	**2,606,694**	—	**1,860,187**	—	**1,921,091**	—	**1,403,546**	**100·00**


MAP
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept. by G. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M 5 0 10 20 30 M
89° W
88° W
17°
16°
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
Mexico
Bahama Is.
Cuba
Jamaica
British Honduras
CENTRAL AMERICA
Guatemala
Honduras
Salvador
Nicaragua
Caribbean Sea
Costa Rica
Canal
MEXICO
Rio Hondo
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Rowleys Bight
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
San Fernando
Pachchacan
Douglas
Progreso
Cocos
Sarteneja
COROZAL DISTRICT
San Roman
San Antonio
San Esteban
Sta. Cruz
Orange Walk
Honey Camp
August
Isla
Ambergris Cay
San Pedro
Bulk Head (L.H.)
Guinea Grass
Revenge Lgn.
New River
Northern R.
Maskall's Bk.
Blue Creek
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
River Bravo
Booth's R.
Cay Corker
Cay Chapie
Long Cay
Hicks Cays
St. Georges Cay
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
Hill Bank
Old River
Bakers
Boom
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Big Falls
BELIZE
Burdon Canal
Belize
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Lighthouse Reef
Turneffe Island
Labouring Creek
Belize River
Butcher Burn
Sibun River
Canal
DISTRICT
Robinson Pt.
Triangles
English Cay (L.H.)
Yalbac St. Cruz
Orange Walk
Churchyard
CAYO DISTRICT
Chorro
Cayo
Manatee River
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Benque Viejo
Socotz
Garbutts Falls
Western Br.
Eastern Br.
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
Mullins R.
Rio Frio
Railway
North Stann Cr.
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Southern Pine Ridge
Stann Cr. Town
Silk Grass
Pier
Sittee R.
Cockscomb Mtn.
Glovers Reef
All Pines
Blue Cr.
South Stann Cr.
Riversdale
Hilly Country
Swasey Br.
Trio Br.
Monkey R.
Cowpen
Seine Bight
Placentia Pt.
Bugle Cay (L.H.)
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Monkey R. Town
Rio Grande
Middle R.
Punta Ycacos
F. E. Snake (L.H.)
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Rapids of Gracias a Dios
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north ; by a straight line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west ; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south ; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb

Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The annual rainfall at Belize was 120·23 inches. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 22nd January and 12th May, when the thermometer registered 51° F. and 89° F., respectively.

History.

It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies, but so far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of His Britannic Majesty and those of the King of Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. In 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by the Godolphin Treaty of 8th July, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the Settlement at this date amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671 the Settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the Settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize

River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the Settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye, thus ending the century and a half of Spanish efforts at domination.

From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for the purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement, which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791–97 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative

Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as " The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all Ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this Report there were four unofficial members.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts : Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name ; the Corozal District ; the Orange Walk District ; the Cayo District ; the Stann Creek District ; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health ; markets ; slaughter-houses ; traffic regulation ; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts ; building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1931 was estimated at 52,139, and consisted of 25,762 males and 26,377 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the early Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by the Caribs, while in the Toledo District the Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemalans, Mexicans, and a few Syrians. In the capital the "Creoles" (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring Republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows :—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in square miles.*	*Persons per square mile.*
Belize	19,672	1,623	12.12
Corozal	7,772	718	10·82
Orange Walk ...	6,338	1,462	4·33
Stann Creek	5,800	840	6.90
Toledo	5,895	2,125	2·77
Cayo	6,662	1,830	3·64
Colony	52,139	8,598	6·06

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages, and infantile mortality for 1931, with comparative figures for the previous year :—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*
1930 ...	1,918	3·66	1,001	1·91	399	0·76	209	10·95
1931 ...	1,909	3·67	1,915	3·67	342	0·65	291	15·17

No record is kept of emigration and immigration.

IV.—HEALTH.

The Colony remained free from any quarantinable disease during the year. Following the hurricane of 10th September, 1931, there was an increase in the number of cases of malaria fever and dysentery due to hurricane conditions causing a temporary increase in the number of malarial mosquitoes and house flies.

The most prevalent diseases were as follows :—

(*a*) *Malaria*—accounting for 50 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. This disease is usually of the aestivo-autumnal type and 531 cases were treated during the year in the six hospitals in the Colony.

This disease is responsible for 6·4 per cent. of the total deaths in the Colony.

(*b*) *Dysentery*—accounting for 5 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. Both the amoebic and bacillary types of the disease occur. Ninety-three cases of this disease were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony, with nine deaths.

(*c*) *Tuberculosis*—accounting for 2·1 per cent. of the total number of infectious disease. The pulmonary form of the disease is most common. Fifteen new cases were notified during the year, and 51 cases were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony.

(*d*) *Venereal diseases* are common—11·5 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease.

No statistics are available as to the occupational incidence of these diseases. There are no mines or factories in the Colony.

The population of the Colony is estimated to be 52,139. The death-rate of the Colony is 36·72 per thousand and the birth-rate 36·78. The infantile mortality rate (the number of children dying within one year of birth) is 138·9 per thousand.

There are six hospitals in the Colony—one for each District of the Colony. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains 70 beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals range from 20 to 6 beds. In these hospitals, treatment is afforded for medical, surgical, and obstetrical cases. In Belize, there is also a venereal disease ward of 8 beds. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3·00 per day for each person. Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals. Accommodation for five destitute sufferers from this disease is provided at the Belize Poor House.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in charge of an Assistant Medical Officer under a Principal Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize hospital, there are two English trained nurses controlling a subordinate native nursing staff. At each District hospital, there is a competent native nurse who has received a course of training at the Belize hospital, extending over a period of three years.

Owing to the absence of any fall to the sea, and the lack of funds to carry out effectual mechanical drainage, few drains in the town of Belize act effectually. The low-lying and swampy land in the northern portion of the town is now being reclaimed by filling it in and raising its level with sand and mud dredged from the adjoining sea. The Local Authority, Belize, also operates a dredger by which means mud taken from the harbour and canals is deposited at convenient places in the town and given to householders for the purpose of raising their low-lying and swampy lots. The canal at the north side of the town is pumped out, as occasion arises, by means of an electric pump controlled by the Local Authority, Belize. In the country districts, where there is a greater fall to the sea, efficient drains are provided and maintained by the Local Authorities.

There are six Local Authorities charged with the duty of looking after the sanitation of their respective Districts. There is also a Central Board of Health, having general power of supervision over the several Local Authorities. In Belize, there are five native subordinate sanitary inspectors working under a trained Chief Sanitary Inspector, and in each of the remaining five Districts of the Colony, there is also a native subordinate sanitary inspector, working under the Assistant Medical Officer of the District.

The absence of any pipe-borne water-supply necessitates the storage of rain-water in vats, tanks, and other receptacles. Regular and thorough inspections of these water receptacles by the sanitary inspectors must be maintained in order to detect and destroy the larvae of the mosquito and in particular the yellow fever-carrying mosquito. Owing to the large number of vats destroyed by the hurricane, householders have had to fall back on barrels and other improvised receptacles in which to store their water which has resulted in an increase in the number of mosquitoes and the necessity for increased watchfulness on the part of the sanitary inspectors. Some of the vats are kept screened by their owners but the majority are kept stocked by the sanitary inspectors with larvivorous fish. Crab holes are being treated with cyanogas by the sanitary staff with satisfactory results. All pools of stagnant water within the several towns are periodically oiled by the sanitary staff, a mixture of sawdust and crude oil being used for the purpose. A very limited amount of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria is being distributed by the Medical Officers free of cost to the public. In Belize, scavenging is now being performed by motor trucks and conditions are much improved. Buckets from latrines are regularly emptied into the sea or canals, and individual septic tanks in increasing numbers are being installed in private houses. In the outlying towns, conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages methods of disposal of excreta are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

The population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about 7 feet above the level of the ground which is often low-lying, swampy, and flooded. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing room, kitchen, or garage.

Owing to the destruction caused by the hurricane of 1931 and the extensive fire which occurred early in 1932, there are now barely sufficient houses in the town of Belize for the accommodation of the present number of inhabitants. Hurricane-damaged houses are, however, being gradually replaced. In other towns of the Colony there is ample housing accommodation.

The houses are most of them very small, judged by European standards, but they are usually neatly painted and tidily kept. At the close of every year, there is usually an influx of labourers into the capital from the various mahogany and chicle camps and there is always, during this period, considerable overcrowding. A few years ago, a large swampy area to the south of the town of Belize was given by the Government to be used as a native residential area. Unfortunately this area was almost completely denuded of its houses by the recent hurricane and the soil so laboriously and expensively deposited by the inhabitants in order to fill up their swampy and low-lying lots washed away. Building has been, however, commenced again in this area. Three ranges of " barracks," two at the north end of the town and another at the south end, have been temporarily erected by the Government to provide accommodation for the homeless. They consist of 72 small rooms each about 10 feet by 8 feet. Another such " barrack " has been since erected by the Town Board of Belize. These rooms are rented to people of the labouring class at the rate of 50 cents per week.

There were no building regulations prior to the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where, and in whatever manner best suited their convenience. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in and free space around each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections. In order to deal with existing slum areas and to rectify the errors of past years, legislation involving compensation to owners will be necessary. This latter cannot be undertaken in view of the present financial condition of the Colony and of the municipal authorities.

Regulations are also now being framed with a view to ensuring that, in future, houses will be erected in such a manner as to afford greater protection against hurricanes.

There are several residents in the town of Belize who own extensive house property which is rented out to tenants, but there are also very many working people who own or partly own the houses in which they live.

There is one active Building Society in Belize, and a portion of the Imperial loan recently obtained, is now being distributed by a Loan Board among householders in the form of loans in cases where houses have been damaged or destroyed by the hurricane.

All premises in the towns are regularly inspected by the sanitary inspectors and householders are made to keep their premises in as sanitary a condition as circumstances permit. Prosecution of offenders is not undertaken save as a last resort.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are :—

Agricultural.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coco-nuts, copra, chicle and corn (maize), sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulse, and grain ;

Live Stock.—Swine, cattle, and poultry ;

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, logwood, rosewood, pine, yemeri, santa maria, and other secondary woods ;

Marine.—Sponges, lobsters, turtle, and fish (there are numerous varieties).

The employment of contract labour in the agricultural industry of the Colony is confined entirely to the sugar estates in the northern districts and to a few stock farms. The length of the contract period varies from six months to fifteen months and wages paid average $19 per month.

As a rule labourers, whether contract or non-contract, are housed on the estates either in wood and iron barracks or bush huts.

In regard to coco-nuts and copra the organization consists of both plantation and individual agriculturists. In the case of the former labour is usually employed as required and paid by the task. The foremen or captains of gangs are as a rule employed permanently and are paid by the month.

The plantation organization is in the majority of cases operated by Europeans, whereas individual growers are mostly non-Europeans. The number of the latter far exceeds that of the former although the actual production is about equally divided. Figures for the actual number of non-European cultivators are not available.

Approximately 80 per cent. of the nuts are exported as such and as copra, the remaining 20 per cent. being used for oil production for home consumption.

Coco-nuts and copra are to agriculture in the Colony what mahogany is to the forest industry and, like mahogany production, the export was greatly curtailed in 1931, the value being $63,241 as against $140,434 in 1930 and $209,750 in 1927.

The grapefruit industry is organized on plantation lines, the majority being owned by Europeans. Labour is recruited as required except in a few cases where regular gangs, amounting to about fifteen men, are regularly employed. In the case of oranges, limes, seedling grapefruit, etc., the bulk of the production is by individuals of non-European descent, who own a few scattered trees on their holdings. The fruits are grown entirely for local consumption.

Exports of citrus fruits also fell in value from $14,953 in 1930 to $8,378 in 1931, but with the recent increase of orchards a marked expansion of citrus exports will occur in the next few years.

The bulk of the banana and plantain crops is now produced by non-European planters each working as an individual unit. At harvesting time they sometimes work in association with one another; otherwise they work their plantations as individuals. Approximately 80 per cent. of the bananas are exported as well as a very small percentage of plantains. As a result of dull markets leading to more strict grading and increased rejections on the part of buyers, the export of bananas was slightly decreased from $32,087 in 1930 to $31,077 in 1931.

Rum is produced entirely on the small sugar estates in the north and on one estate in the south. The labour required is drawn from estate labour except in the case of the "still-man" who is usually a permanent employee paid monthly. In the northern districts the production is entirely by persons of Spanish descent, while that in the south is by a European. The value of rum exported showed a slight increase to $14,412 from $14,165 in 1930. The production of vegetables, etc., is almost entirely carried on by non-Europeans working as individuals, each farming a small acreage.

Sugar-cane is organized as a plantation crop on estate lines, owned by persons of European descent and Central American Spanish descent. Labour is usually contracted. A small quantity is grown by the non-European cultivator for family consumption, and the whole of the sugar production is consumed in the Colony.

Stock-raising is confined almost entirely to persons of European and Central American Spanish descent. Owing to the decrease in the use of animal draught in timber extraction less attention is given to this industry now than previously. The use of stock for agricultural draught purposes is hardly practised at all, and consequently the number of animals kept by the native agriculturist is practically nil.

During the last few years marked improvement has taken place in regard to non-European agriculture. The advent of a fairly large number of Jamaican cultivators has appreciably raised the standard. The influence of the European planter cannot as yet be said to have affected the native cultivator. This is mainly due to the very small number of Europeans at present operating. The native of British Honduras is not a born agriculturist and thus it will be a generation or more before any pronounced improvement in his methods can be hoped for.

The forest industry continued to contribute largely to exports of produce of domestic origin as is shown by the percentages, by value, of the various classes of produce exported.

	Per cent.
Forest produce	85·07
Agricultural produce	14·41
Marine produce	0·48
Unclassified produce	0·04

The volume of exports, however, was greatly reduced as compared with that of the previous year, the total value falling from $1,403,595 in 1930 to $602,459 in 1931. This fall in the export of mahogany was largely accounted for by the depression in the mahogany market in which activities were almost at a standstill. The value of mahogany shipped in 1931 was $297,972 as against $1,007,615 in 1930 and $2,637,622 in 1928, the record year of the Colony's mahogany trade. Exports of chicle gum remained up to the average of recent years with a value of $171,508.

Pine was not exported but the local mills continued in operation to supply local demand. The output was about 600,000 feet B.M. There is room for great expansion in the pine-milling industry. Much of the Colony's stumpage, however, is under long-term concessions which have not been worked to date. Exports of logwood were slightly higher than those of 1930 but this commodity, once the only source of the Colony's wealth, is now an almost insignificant item in the export trade.

The value of logwood exported during the year was $5,803. Six tons only of rosewood were produced in 1931 against 72 in 1930. This commodity has always a limited market but the production for the year was very low. Alligator skins and live animals were also exported. The hunting of alligators is now becoming more organized through the activities of local buyers of hides.

As regards the forest industry, practically the whole of the annual cut of mahogany and cedar is shipped in log form ; in the round to United States of America ; squared to the United Kingdom markets. The United States markets have until recently absorbed 85 to 90 per cent. of the exports, but in 1931 this volume fell to about 75 per cent. United States' buyers obtain their supplies by contracting, a year ahead of requirements, with loggers in the Colony for a definite volume of timber. The logger maintains his own extraction organization in the form of caterpillar tractors and logging trucks—animal haulage is practically obsolete—so that his overhead costs are confined to the depreciation of equipment, the wages of his bookkeeper, and his own salary or profits. He selects an area in which mahogany is sufficiently abundant to give him his contracted volume of timber. Trees are purchased from the landowner either on a stumpage or a measurement royalty basis.

Labour is hired at the beginning of the year on 6 to 12 months' contracts and is transported to and from the logging area by the contractor. Labourers' families usually accompany them to the bush.

Mahogany work is practically all given out on task rates.

A market for chicle is provided by the United States of America chewing gum manufacturers, who maintain buying agencies in the Colony. Buyers give out contracts for stipulated weights of gum to their contractors who often sub-contract. The contractor procures a concession to tap chicle on a rate-per-pound basis from the landowner, and hires his labour for the chicle season which lasts from July till February. Until recently large sums were advanced to the tapper who usually spent the advance, intended to support his family while he was absent in the bush, and remained in debt, with his family often in want, until the end of the season, when accounts were settled. A spendthrift, improvident morale was thus built up among the tappers leading to theft of other men's chicle and/or sale of their own produce to some other contractor to obtain ready cash, until the dishonesty of the chicleros has become almost proverbial. Several years of depression, however, in the chicle markets have largely rid the industry of the advance system, which will never be reinstated, to the ultimate benefit, it is to be hoped, of the individual chiclero and his family.

Logwood cutting is not now an organized industry. It is confined to the sporadic efforts of individuals who cut a few tons at a time for sale to the exporters. It is treated as a means of making some money during dull times rather than as a permanent employment. The very fluctuating demand fosters this attitude. Rosewood production is handled by the exporters who hire their own small gangs temporarily when they have an order to fulfil. Pine lumber is produced by a few small mills of the semi-portable type. It is largely sold in the undressed form so that it cannot compete with the imported article for certain classes of work such as interior trim.

The early introduction of a modern sawmill for the conversion of mahogany should be of great benefit to the industry as a whole. It will, too, probably lead to the production and marketing of timbers other than mahogany for which there is an ever-growing demand in the world's hardwood markets as the hardwoods of the temperate zones become exhausted. There are also fresh possibilities, now long overdue, of increased activity in pine production. The full utilization of these latent forest resources must make for enhanced prosperity and progress within the Colony.

VII.—COMMERCE.

As visualized in the last Annual Report the trade of the Colony was at a very low ebb throughout 1931. Contracts for the purchase of mahogany and chicle, which form the mainstay of the Colony, practically ceased altogether, thereby throwing a large number of the wood-cutters and chicle-gatherers out of work.

The prices of all commodities fell in the year but as this was the case also in regard to the produce of the Colony the purchasing power of the inhabitants was not improved, and, as the year progressed, there was clear indication that a number of the people were living on savings which could not last indefinitely.

The situation already grave was made much worse by the hurricane disaster of 10th September, when relief measures had to be undertaken of necessity.

The tables included in this Report show that the volume of trade with Canada and the United Kingdom continues to increase, and that with the United States of America to decrease.

It is hoped that in the future it may be possible for sawn mahogany and cedar lumber to be exported direct to the London market. If more satisfactory direct shipping facilities between the Colony and the United Kingdom were available a greater volume of the British Honduras freight now shipped via New York would be carried in British vessels.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $7,346,424 which was less by $2,113,869 than the total of $9,460,293 in 1930.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table :—

	1927.	*1928.*	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	4,534,804	4,481,748	5,056,673	4,925,330	4,435,358
Exports	4,547,528	4,041,502	4,876,875	4,534,963	2,911,066
Trade	9,082,332	8,523,250	9,933,548	9,460,293	7,346,424

The table following shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, the United States of America, and other foreign countries in 1931 compared with the trade of 1920 :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1931.	1920.	1931.	1920.	1931.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17·45	47·26	14·88	53·69	16·17	49·82
United States of America	60·44	32·90	78·18	41·38	69·31	36·26
Other Countries	22·11	19·84	6·94	4·93	14·52	13·94

Imports.

The imports in 1931 amounted to $4,435,358 as against $4,925,330 in 1930; a decrease of $489,972.

The direction of the import trade during the years 1927–1931 is shown in the following table :—

	1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	689,528	15·25	834,681	18·62	888,406	17·57	687,324	13·95	745,024	16·80
Canada	599,105	13·21	792,411	17·68	1,105,403	21·86	1,188,837	24·14	1,289,767	29·80
Other British Possessions.	101,406	2·23	66,640	1·49	82,456	1·63	98,653	2·00	61,495	1·38
United States of America	2,093,237	46·15	1,795,669	40·07	1,992,670	39·41	1,730,051	35·13	1,459,006	32·90
Mexico...	546,276	12·04	528,292	11·78	410,239	8·11	563,983	11·45	357,599	8·06
Other Countries ...	505,252	11·12	464,055	10·36	577,499	11·42	656,582	13·33	522,467	11·78

Exports.

Exports amounted to $2,911,066 in 1931 or $1,623,897 less than the total of $4,534,963 in 1930. The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1927–1931 :—

	1927.		1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	357,618	7·86	439,505	10·88	324,009	6·65	153,379	3·38	145,883	5·00
Canada	145,759	3·21	294,767	7·29	233,671	4·79	331,720	7·31	105,613	3·62
Other British Possessions.	96,620	2·12	413,643	10·23	599,519	12·29	1,125,000	24·81	1,312,152	45·07
United States of America.	3,716,299	81·72	2,718,198	67·26	3,485,061	71·46	2,708,674	59·73	1,204,660	41·38
Other Countries ...	231,232	5·09	175,389	4·34	234,615	4·81	216,190	4·77	142,758	4·93

The mahogany exports fell so largely as to amount only to approximately one-eighth of the total of the exports in 1927. The direction of the exports of mahogany during the five years 1927–1931 was as follows :—

	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.
	S. Feet.	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*
Domestic Exports to—					
United Kingdom	2,411,826	2,637,622	1,286,242	589,283	694,672
France	—	15,972	—	—	—
United States of America ...	18,689,523	11,138,283	12,861,862	10,240,048	2,545,568
Sub-total	21,101,349	13,791,877	14,148,104	10,829,331	3,240,240
Re-exports to—					
United States of America ...	3,493,122	2,570,403	2,330,076	—	—
Total	24,594,471	16,362,280	16,478,180	10,829,331	3,240,240

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 643,229, an increase of 17,269 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	2,736	76,476	79,212
United States of America ...	—	102,244	102,244
Other	1,105	144,710	145,815
Total ...	3,841	323,430	327,271

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	2,613	76,903	79,516
United States of America ...	—	93,615	93,615
Other	781	142,046	142,827
Total ...	3,394	312,564	315,958

The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1927	341,063	337,714	678,777
1928	291,451	288,427	579,878
1929	312,581	312,691	625,272
1930	313,587	312,373	625,960
1931	327,271	315,958	643,229

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes :—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).
(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

The average wages for agricultural labourers vary from $6·00 to $10·00 per month, including rations. Such labourers are engaged, principally, on sugar, coco-nut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are 9 hours a day with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are, usually, provided with free quarters (huts).

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows :—

Artisans from $1·00 to $2·00 a day; carpenters, shipwrights, painters, and masons from $1·00 to $2·50 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging, for housemaids vary from $1·25 to $2·50; for cooks from $1·50 to $3·00.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows :—

Unskilled labourers, $0·75 to $1·25 a day.
Artisans, $1·00 to $2·00 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize.

The following comparison between the staple food-stuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded :—

	cts.		
1 lb. Flour =	4	... $1·00 per diem =	25 lb.
1 lb. Rice =	4	... $1·00 ,, ,, =	25 ,,
1 lb. Beans =	7	... $1·00 ,, ,, =	14·29 lb.
1 lb. Mess Pork =	13	... $1·00 ,, ,, =	7·70 ,,

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt-fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables, and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows :—

In Belize—in hotels—$2·50 to $3·00 a day.
In boarding houses—$2·00 a day; $50·00 to $60·00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding houses available except at Corozal where there are a few hotels. The cost of living, generally, is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is sixty-four, fifty-four being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize where a civilian is employed; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the teaching staff of the schools, which is regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years.

The grants for the year amounted to $72,271·56; $11·93 *per capita* on an average daily attendance of 6,058.

The total cost to the Government inclusive of the cost of administration was $77,327·27, or $12·68 *per capita*.

There are a few private schools in Belize that receive no aid. The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 78;

one hundred and fifty-two teachers and an average of sixty-three pupil teachers were employed ; the average enrolment at all schools was 7,834, of whom 4,095 were boys and 3,739 girls ; the average attendance was 6,058. The total average roll in aided and un-aided schools was 8,161 and the average attendance 6,328.

Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connexion with the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the Diocesan High School for Girls conducted by the Anglican Church, the St. John's College for Boys conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, the St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the Diocesan High School for Boys conducted by the Anglican Church.

The average roll in these schools was 576, and the average attendance 530 ; but many pupils, of tender age, are not in the secondary department. The Cambridge University Examinations are taken.

These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at these examinations. The sum of $1,044·00 was paid on the 1931 results.

There is no provision for technical education ; but mention might be made here of a Government Industrial School in the Stann Creek Valley where agriculture and farming are the principal features. There are no Universities. Evening classes are conducted in a few of the schools, one being the St. John's College.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government Poor Houses, one for men the other for women.

Out-door relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $90·00. The annual vote is $5,000·00.

A society known as "The Women's Auxiliary," in connexion with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church, assist indigent persons. Besides, each Church has its Poor Fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others.

There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members for sickness and death. Their disbursement for the year was about $3,655·00.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League has been doing excellent work. This institution is supported by voluntary contributions.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the Polo Club, the Golf Club, and Newtown Tennis Club.

There are cricket, football, and basket ball leagues ; baseball is also played.

There are several musical associations. A cinema theatre in Belize affords entertainment on five days of the week. No facilities are provided in this Colony for the study of art.

The drama is given periodic attention by amateurs.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Internal transport in the Colony is mostly carried out by means of its many rivers (motor boats, pitpans, and doreys being the mediums used). Mule transport is the method of carriage between the Cayo District and the Peten District of Guatemala.

There are no roads in the Colony except a few short stretches around each town. There are, however, numerous bush tracks which are kept cleared by Government along which motor cars can sometimes run for short distances in the dry season.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs 25 miles inland through very fertile country.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tram car or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by automobiles, and of goods by motor trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service fortnightly between Belize and New Orleans and approximately once a month between Belize and New York by ships of the United Fruit Company.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica. connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool about once every six weeks and of the United Fruit Company from Monile about once a fortnight call at Belize.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics.

A weekly air mail service northward through Mexico to Miami and southward through the Central American Republics to Panama is provided by the planes of the Pan American Airways, Inc.

There are 26 post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1931 was 727,924. Money and Postal Order business amounting to $95,373 internal and $131,736 foreign was done in 1931.

There are 48 telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. In 1931, 7,422 radio telegrams were transmitted and 7,935 received.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces, and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners, the gold and other securities by which it is secured being, for the time being, in the custody of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the Police who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any magnitude were undertaken during the year. The expenditure on maintenance of Government buildings was $11,236, on maintenance and improvement of roads $44,195, on unemployment relief $1,997; arrangements were made for the commencement of a reclamation and drainage scheme of a portion of the northern section of Belize and a sum of $28,209 was expended on the purchase of plant, etc. This scheme was made possible by funds provided from the Colonial Development Fund.

After the hurricane in September, the clearing of the streets and other duties of the Board were carried out for a limited period by the Public Works Department.

Repairs and replacement of Government property destroyed by the hurricane were effected by this Department at a cost of $78,727.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed " District Courts ") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each Court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the Court. The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Superme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September, and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Colony during the year :—

Persons charged by Police	807	
" " otherwise	95	
		902
Convicted summarily	633	
Acquitted summarily	224	
Committed to Supreme Court	45	
		902
Convicted by Supreme Court	29	
Acquitted	8	
Nolle prosequi	8	
		45

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of 3 officers and 118 other ranks. There are 24 stations in the Colony 18 of which are in telephonic communication.

The Police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulations and signals. Applicants for drivers' licences are examined by the Police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 feet of cubic space. There are no association wards except the sick ward. The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells with approximately 700 cubic feet of space each. In each of the five Districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lockups. The Corozal District has the largest with concrete walls around it. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District Prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize Prison. The District Prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the Prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under sixteen who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. There is no probation system in force at present, but an Ordinance to provide for one will be enacted shortly. The general health of the prisoners at the Belize Prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

The undermentioned Ordinances were passed during the year 1931 :—

No. 1.—The District Boards (Amendment) Ordinance provides for horses, vehicles, etc., certified to be used wholly or partially on the public service to be exempted wholly or partially from the payment of licensing fees.

No. 2.—The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 3.—The District Local Funds Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 4.—The Land and Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance provides for an increase in the tax on lands served by the Stann Creek Railway.

No. 5.—The Stann Creek Development Board Ordinance provides for the establishment of such a Board.

No. 6.—The Medical Service and Institutions (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the fees due by inmates of a Government institution to be recovered from certain relatives.

No. 7.—The Towns Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance exempts from taxation buildings and land appurtenant thereto used exclusively for religious or charitable purposes.

No. 8.—The Milk and Cream (Amendment) Ordinance varies the minimum percentage of butterfat necessary in milk imported into the Colony and authorizes the prohibition of the importation of any particular brand of milk or cream.

No. 9.—The Pilotage (Amendment) Ordinance levies a rental of 25 cents per annum on lands occupied by houses the property of pilots.

No. 10.—The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance varies the regulations governing the re-employment of pensioners and amends the regulations governing the payment of death gratuities to civil servants.

No. 11.—The District Local Funds Supplementary Appropriation (1929–30) Ordinance.

No. 12.—The General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (1929–30) Ordinance.

No. 13.—The Gambling Prevention (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the issue of licences to conduct sweepstakes, etc., for a charitable or deserving object.

No. 14.—The Undesirable Immigrants (Amendment) Ordinance regulates the admission into the Colony of theatrical companies, circus troupes, or similar concerns.

No. 15.—The Passports Ordinance regulates the issue and production of passports and the grants of visas, etc.

No. 16.—The Registration of United Kingdom Patents (Amendment) Ordinance reduces certain fees payable in connexion with the local registration of English patents.

No. 17.—The Belize Town Board (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the prosecution of persons obstructing, impeding, and molesting officers and members of the Town Board of Belize in the discharge of their duties or in their official capacity, etc.

No. 18.—The Electric Light and Power (Amendment) Ordinance amends the existing law in respect of offences for abstracting, etc., electricity.

No. 19.—To validate a Proclamation issued on 11th September, 1931.

No. 20.—The Employment of Young Persons and Children Ordinance regulates the employment of children between 12 and 16 years in industrial undertakings.

No. 21.—The Employment of Women Ordinance regulates the employment of women in industrial undertakings.

No. 22.—The Belize Town Board (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance amends the law governing the licensing of horses, mules, and vehicles.

No. 23.—The District Board (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance amends the law governing the licensing in the out-districts, of horses, mules, and vehicles.

No. 24.—The Sponges Export Duty Ordinance, regulates the exportation of sponges and provides for payment of a duty on sponges exported.

No. 25.—The Finance Ordinance imposes (1) a package tax of 5 cents a package, (2) an additional 10 per centum on income-tax in respect of the year 1930–31, and (3) certain additional duties, and makes further provision in connexion with finance.

Subsidiary Legislation.

The undermentioned subsidiary legislation was enacted during the year :—

Regulation by the Harbour Board in regard to the fitting of silencers, mufflers, or other devices on motor boat engines, to reduce noise—10th January.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty, for 3 years, certain materials used in connexion with the manufacture of soap—24th January.

Rules amending the rates of fees for patients in Government hospitals, etc.—31st January.

Proclamation (No. 1) ordering the taking of a census on 26th April—31st January.

Order by the Governor in Council applying Part IV of the Dangerous Drugs Ordinance to di-hydro-morphinone and its salts—21st February.

Regulations by the Collector of Customs amending the Regulations governing the re-packing of goods in a King's Warehouse—21st February.

Regulation prohibiting, for one year, the gathering of sponges at Turneffe—28th February.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty certain souvenir buttons—28th February.

Regulation amending the Pensions Regulations—7th March.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty for 3 years resin and tallow for use in connexion with the manufacture of soap—7th March.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty reinforcing material for use in the construction of a sea wall at Loyola Park—21st March.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty empty bags and sacks to be used in connexion with the manufacture of sugar, and empty casks to be employed in the production and distillation of local rum—28th March.

Rules regarding inventions made by persons employed in the Government Service of British Honduras—11th April.

Order by the Governor in Council declaring a certain area to be no longer an " infected area " under Chapter 75 of the Consolidated Laws 1924—11th April.

Regulation providing for the transmission, by air mail, of Money Order Advices—16th May.

Proclamation (No. 3) prohibiting the importation of fruits and vegetables and other articles unless accompanied by a certificate—30th May.

Proclamation (No. 4) defining the limits and boundaries of the town of El Cayo—4th July.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty certain souvenir flag pins—25th July.

Order by the Governor in Council exempting from the payment of import duty certain fireworks imported by the Committee in connexion with the St. George's Caye Day celebrations—8th August.

Regulation by the Harbour Board in regard to the fitting of silencers, mufflers, or other devices on motor boat engines to reduce noise—8th August.

Regulations by the Harbour Board for the control of the lower reaches of the Belize River and the maintenance of good order therein—8th August.

Proclamation (No. 6) prohibiting persons from being on the streets of Belize after sunset except under permit—24th September.

Order by the Governor in Council ordering that the District Commissioner's Court be held at the Police Station on certain days each week—24th September.

Regulation providing for the issue and payment of British Imperial Postal and British Money Orders at certain rates of exchange—26th September.

Regulation increasing the rates of postage on letters to the United States of America—24th October.

Regulation amending the rates of commission on Inland Money Orders—31st October.

Regulation imposing a clearance fee in respect of certain parcels cleared from the Post Office—31st October.

Regulation varying the rates of postage on inland letters, and letters to Canada and the British West Indies—31st October.

Rule varying the rates of Subsistence Allowances paid to Government Officers—7th November.

Proclamation (No. 9) repealing Ordinance No. 19 of 1931 which validated Proclamation No. 6 of 1931—7th November.

There is no legislative provision relating to (*a*) factories ; (*b*) compensation for accidents ; (*c*) sickness, old age, etc.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 31st March, 1932, amounted to $875,045 or $285,400 less than the previous year and $188,498 less than the amount estimated.

The total expenditure was $1,035,600, a saving of $55,384 on the estimate and $51,447 less than the expenditure in the previous year.

The totals of the revenue and expenditure for the last six years are given below :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1926–27	1,116,432	1,040,490
1927–28	1,068,212	1,112,083
1928–29	1,039,666	1,046,877
1929–30	1,036,068	1,023,603
1930–31	1,160,445	1,087,047
1931–32	875,045	1,035,600

Public Debt.

At the close of the year the funded public debt stood at $1,869,407·34. In addition, the total outstanding on advance account in connexion with reconstruction work amounted to $123,162·89. The total of the accumulated sinking funds towards redemption of the funded debt was $195,803·79.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and company loans, and cash in hand amounted at 31st March, 1932, to a total of $884,777·58. The main liabilities were :—

Savings Bank depositors $198,758·80; Bills Payable $75,000 and Surplus, and Reserve Funds, with balances amounting to $128,754·64 and $113,036·21 respectively, in aid of the general revenue. There is a Fire Insurance Fund with a balance of $57,994·58 to provide against loss of Government buildings by fire; also a Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund and a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with balances of $24,271·87 and $8,260·73 respectively. The difference is made up of sundry deposits, etc.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation are :—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duty.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income-tax.
5. Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rents.

The *Customs Import Duties* are principally on the *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits, and tobacco. The general rate at *ad valorem* is 10 per cent. and 20 per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs respectively. From 22nd December, 1931, a surtax of 25 per cent. was imposed on almost all the *ad valorem* duties except articles of food, and certain increases were made on some of the specific duties. A package tax at the rate of 5 cents per package was also introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported.

An *Excise Duty* at the rate of $3·00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and entered for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 2 cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of 8 cents earmarked for improvements and road construction ; but refunds are made on improved land.

The *Income-tax* rate is low, the percentage of tax on chargeable incomes up to $60,000 being 9·59 per cent. only.

Fines of Courts are casual ; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 2 cents on cheques, receipts, and bills of exchange, and 5 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property the rate is 20 cents per $100.

Warehouse Rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years :—

	1927–28.	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.	1931–32.
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import and Export Duties.	645,131	626,895	641,844	711,745	546,785
Excise Duty	99,117	90,321	79,821	84,561	60,873
Land Tax	42,714	47,603	46,610	45,973	36,807
Income-tax	43,483	42,978	36,162	37,133	29,259
Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Cos.	1,584	1,488	1,605	1,669	1,413
Fines of Courts	6,204	4,939	4,954	6,349	5,014
Estate Duty	—	1,717	2,109	944	1,429
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties	21,095	19,554	21,561	19,272	12,121
Warehouse Rents	22,829	25,996	28,019	25,155	19,040

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

The effects of the world-wide economic depression were keenly felt in the Colony in 1931. There was no market for the Colony's staple products, mahogany and chicle, and the unemployment situation became severe. To accentuate the already difficult position, the Colony suffered the most awful calamity in its history : on 10th September a hurricane and tidal wave—the first in 144 years—struck Belize and its environs leaving in its wake, death, destruction, and privation. The actual number of lives lost will never be known because, to protect the health of the survivors, great funeral pyres had to be raised in certain areas where the death-roll was heaviest, and the task of removing the dead from the labyrinth of destruction was rendered almost impossible. The deaths are estimated to have been over a thousand, and the injured nearly as many. Damage to property is estimated at nearly half the total value of property in the town, aggregating in value to well over one million dollars. The Government radio station was put out of action, also the station of the Pan American Airways. The following day, however, the latter station was got into working order and news of the disaster communicated to the outside world. As a result, United States naval airplanes, with medical personnel and supplies, and United States warships, arrived the next day. The assistance rendered in furnishing supplies, caring for the injured, and burying the dead was extremely welcome. Assistance in the form of further medical personnel and supplies, by airplane and otherwise, was rendered by the United Fruit Company and the Governments of Mexico and Guatemala.

H.M.S. *Danae* arrived from Barbados via Jamaica on the 16th and brought additional supplies of food and water. The officers and men rendered valuable assistance in clearing the town and in preserving order.

A loan of £325,000 has since been obtained under the Imperial Tanganyika and British Honduras Loans Act, 1932, from the Local Loans Fund for the reconstruction of public and private property, the development of agricultural settlement, and other purposes, and, with the establishment of a Loan Board, funds are being placed at the disposal of property owners on a mortgage basis. As the currency of British Honduras is based on the gold standard, the depreciation of sterling will, of course, reduce the total sum available for expenditure in the Colony.

Relief, in cash and kind, has been received from all quarters, and it would be impossible to enumerate the details herein, but the Colony is grateful for the manifestations of sympathy and the assistance rendered, not only by the British Treasury, but also by the Government of the United States, the British West Indian Colonies, and other parts of the Empire, and by individuals and companies all over the world.

The motto on the Arms of the Colony is "*sub umbra floreo,*" and the population of the Colony is showing itself worthy of its motto by its spirit in rising triumphant over its disasters.

H. G. PILLING,

12*th December*, 1932. *Colonial Secretary.*

APPENDIX.

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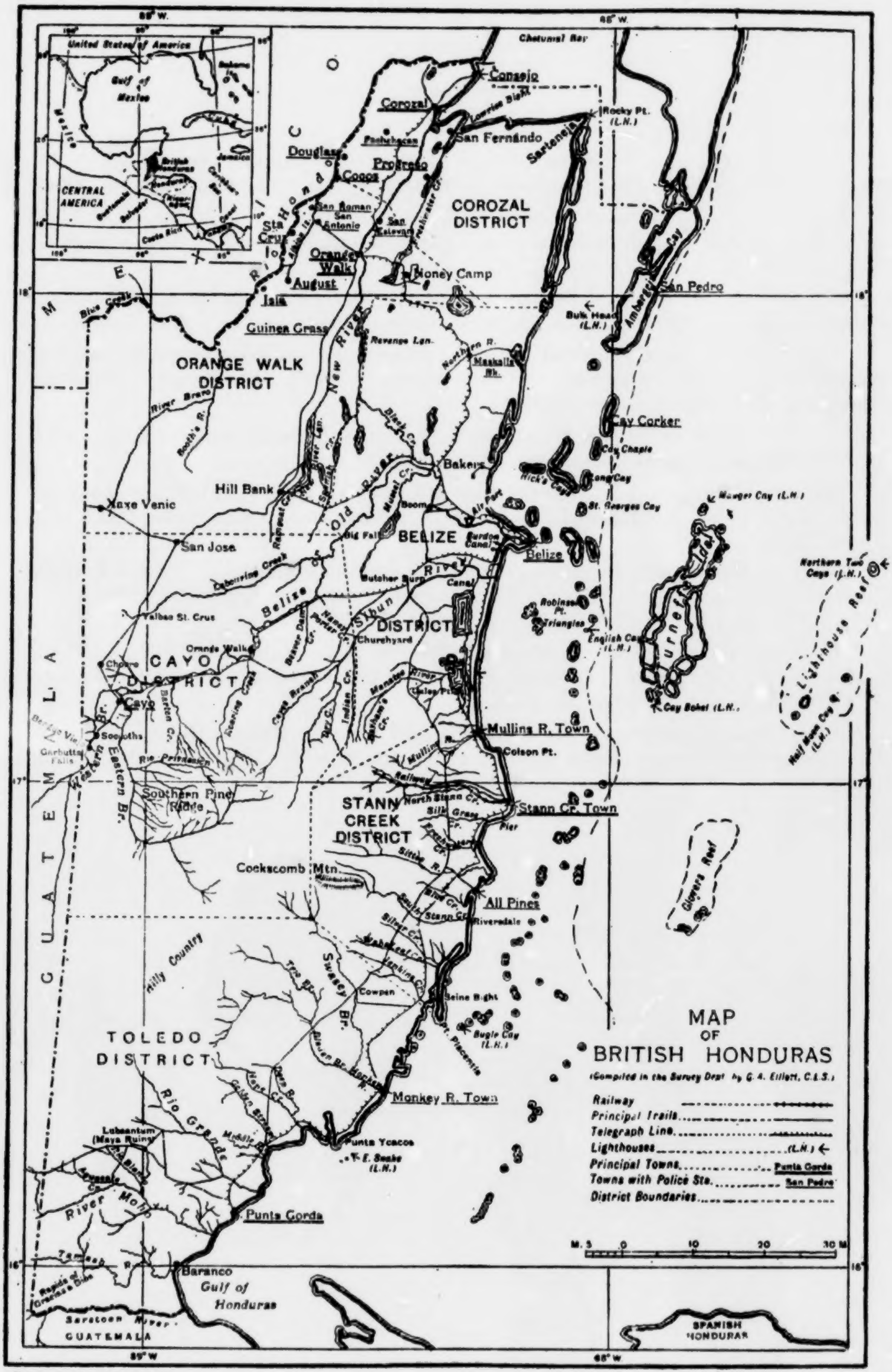
" Ethnology of the Mayas of Southern and Central British Honduras." By Eric Thompson, Chicago, Field Museum of Natural History, 1930. (Field Museum Publication No. 274, Anthropological Series, Vol. XVII, No. 2.)


MAP
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept by G. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
Mexico
CENTRAL AMERICA
British Honduras
Jamaica
Costa Rica
89° W.
88° W.
18°
17°
16°
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
San Fernando
Sarteneja
Douglas
Cocos
Progreso
COROZAL DISTRICT
San Roman
San Antonio
San Estevan
Orange Walk
August
Isla
Honey Camp
Rio Hondo
Guinea Grass
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bulk Head (L.H.)
M E X I C O
Blue Creek
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
River Bravo
New River
Revenge Lag.
Northern R.
Cay Corker
Cay Chapel
Long Cay
Hick's Cays
Bakers
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Boom
Old River
Big Fall
BELIZE
Belize
Burdon Canal
St. Georges Cay
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Turneffe
Lighthouse Reef
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
Robinson Pt.
Triangles
English Cay (L.H.)
Butcher Burn
Canal
Sibun River
DISTRICT
Churchyard
Belize River
Valbao St. Cruz
Grande Walk
CAYO DISTRICT
Cayo
Succotz
Garbutts Falls
Benque Viejo
Eastern Br.
Western Br.
Rio Privacion
Southern Pine Ridge
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
North Stann Cr.
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Stann Cr. Town
Pier
Cockscomb Mtn.
All Pines
Riversdale
South Stann Cr.
Glovers Reef
G U A T E M A L A
Hilly Country
Swasey Br.
Cowpen
Seine Bight
Bugle Cay (L.H.)
Pt. Placentia
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Monkey R. Town
Rio Grande
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
Punta Ycacos
F. Snake (L.H.)
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Rapids of Gracias a Dios
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north ; by a straight line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west ; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south ; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb

Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The annual rainfall at Belize was 67·36 inches. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 21st November and 15th September, when the thermometer registered 59° F. and 93° F., respectively.

History.

It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies, but so far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of His Britannic Majesty and those of the King of Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. In 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by the Godolphin Treaty of 8th July, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the Settlement at this date amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671 the Settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the Settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize

River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the Settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye, thus ending the century and a-half of Spanish efforts at domination.

From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement, which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws".

In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791–97 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative

Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding Member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided also a casting vote. Under Ordinance No. 17 of 1932, the Governor or presiding Member may, either before or after the votes of the members have been taken, " declare the passing of any Bill or any clause of it or any amendment to any such Bill or of any resolution or vote to be necessary in the interest of public order, public faith, or other first essentials of good government including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire, or to be necessary to secure within scope of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote as aforesaid the control of finance of the Colony by His Majesty's Government for the period during which the Colony receives financial assistance from His Majesty's Exchequer ". In this case " only the votes of the official members shall be taken into consideration and any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote shall be deemed to have been passed by the Council if a majority of the votes of such official members are recorded in favour of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote ".

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as " The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all Ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this Report there were four unofficial members.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts : Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name ; the Corozal District ; the Orange Walk District ; the Cayo District ; the Stann Creek District ; and the

Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health; markets; slaughter-houses; traffic regulation; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts; building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1932 was estimated at 52,945, and consisted of 26,185 males and 26,760 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the early Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by the Caribs, while in the Toledo District the Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemalans, Mexicans, and a few Syrians. In the capital the "Creoles" (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring Republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in square miles.*	*Persons per square mile.*
Belize	20,090	1,623	12·37
Corozal	7,840	718	10·91
Orange Walk ...	6,360	1,462	4·35
Stann Creek	5,885	840	7.01
Toledo	5,965	2,125	2·81
Cayo	6,805	1,830	3·72
Colony	52,945	8,598	6·16

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages, and infantile mortality for 1932, with comparative figures for the previous year :—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*
1931 ...	1,909	3·67	1,915	3·67	342	0·65	291	15·17
1932 ...	1,879	3·54	1,073	2·02	363	0·65	194	10·32

No record is kept of emigration and immigration.

IV.—HEALTH.

The Colony remained free from any quarantinable disease during the year.

The most prevalent diseases were as follows :—

(*a*) *Malaria*—accounting for 60 per cent of the total number of cases of infectious disease. This disease is usually of the aestivo-autumnal type and 474 cases were treated during the year in the six hospitals in the Colony.

This disease is responsible for 4·3 per cent of the total deaths in the Colony.

(*b*) *Dysentery*—accounting for 6·8 per cent of the total number of cases of infectious disease. Both the amoebic and bacillary types of the disease occur. Seventy-three cases of this disease were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony, with eight deaths.

(*c*) *Tuberculosis*—accounting for 3·7 per cent of the total number of infectious disease. The pulmonary form of the disease is most common. Six new cases were notified during the year, and 40 cases were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony.

(*d*) *Venereal diseases* are common—13·4 per cent of the total number of cases of infectious disease.

No statistics are available as to the occupational incidence of these diseases. There are no mines or factories in the Colony.

There are six hospitals in the Colony—one for each District of the Colony. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains 62 beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals range from 19 to 6 beds. In these hospitals, treatment is afforded for medical, surgical, and obstetrical cases. In Belize, there is also a venereal disease ward of eight beds. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3·00 per day for each person. Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals. Accommodation for twelve destitute sufferers from this disease is provided at the Belize Poor House.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in charge of an Assistant Medical Officer under a Principal Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize hospital, there is one English trained nurse controlling a subordinate native nursing staff. At each District hospital, there is a competent native nursing staff. At each District hospital, there is a competent native nurse, who has received a course of training at the Belize hospital, extending over a period of three years.

Owing to the absence of any fall to the sea, and the lack of funds to carry out effectual mechanical drainage, few drains in the town of Belize act effectively. The low-lying and swampy land in the northern portion of the town is now being reclaimed by filling it in and raising its level with sand and mud dredged from the adjoining sea. The Local Authority, Belize, also operates a dredger by which means mud taken from the harbour and canals is deposited at convenient places in the town and given to householders for the purpose of raising their low-lying and swampy lots. The canal at the north side of the town is pumped out, as occasion arises, by means of an electric pump controlled by the Local Authority, Belize. In the country districts, where there is a greater fall to the sea, efficient drains are provided and maintained by the Local Authorities.

There are six Local Authorities charged with the duty of looking after the sanitation of their respective Districts. There is also a Central Board of Health, having general power of supervision over the several Local Authorities. In Belize, there are five native subordinate sanitary inspectors working under a trained Chief Sanitary Inspector, and in each of the remaining five Districts of the Colony, there is also a native subordinate sanitary inspector, working under the Assistant Medical Officer of the District.

The absence of any pipe-borne water-supply necessitates the storage of rain-water in vats, tanks, and other receptacles. Regular and thorough inspections of these water receptacles by the sanitary inspectors must be maintained in order to detect and destroy the larvae of the mosquito and in particular the yellow fever-carrying mosquito. Owing to the large number of vats destroyed by the hurricane, householders have had to fall back on barrels and other improvised receptacles in which to store their water which has resulted in an increase in the number of mosquitoes and the necessity for increased watchfulness on the part of the sanitary inspectors. Some of the vats are kept screened by their owners but the majority are kept stocked by the sanitary inspectors with larvivorous fish. Crab holes are being treated with cyanogas by the sanitary staff with satisfactory results. All pools of stagnant water within the several towns are periodically oiled by the sanitary staff, a mixture of sawdust and crude oil being used for the purpose. A very limited amount of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria is being distributed by the Medical Officers free of cost to the public.

In Belize, scavenging is now being performed by motor trucks and conditions are much improved. Buckets from latrines are regularly emptied into the sea or canals, and individual septic tanks in increasing numbers are being installed in private houses. In the outlying towns, conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages methods of disposal of excreta are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

The population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about 7 feet above the level of the ground which is often low-lying, swampy, and flooded. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing room, kitchen, or garage.

Owing to the destruction caused by the hurricane of 1931 and the extensive fire which occurred early in 1932, there are now barely sufficient houses in the town of Belize for the accommodation of the present number of inhabitants. Hurricane-damaged houses are, however, being gradually replaced. In other towns of the Colony there is ample housing accommodation.

The houses are most of them very small, judged by European standards, but they are, in general, neatly painted and tidily kept. At the close of every year, there is usually an influx of labourers into the capital from the various mahogany and chicle camps and there is always, during this period, considerable overcrowding. A few years ago, a large swampy area to the south of the town of Belize was given by the Government to be used as a native residential area. Unfortunately this area was almost completely denuded of its houses by the recent hurricane and the soil so laboriously and expensively deposited by the inhabitants in order to fill up their swampy and low-lying lots washed away. Building has been, however, commenced again in this area. Three ranges of " barracks," two at the north end of the town and another at the south end, have been temporarily erected by the Government to provide accommodation for the homeless. They consist of 72 small rooms each about 10 feet by 8 feet. Another such " barrack " has been since erected by the Town Board of Belize. These rooms are rented to people of the labouring class at the rate of 50 cents per week.

There were no building regulations prior to the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where, and in whatever manner best suited their convenience. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in and free space around each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections. In order to deal with existing slum areas and to rectify the errors of past years, legislation involving compensation to owners will be necessary. This latter cannot be undertaken in view of the present financial condition of the Colony and of the municipal authorities.

Regulations have now been framed with a view to ensuring that, in future, houses will be erected in such a manner as to afford greater protection against hurricanes.

There are several residents in the town of Belize who own extensive house property which is rented out to tenants, but there are also very many working people who own or partly own the houses in which they live.

There is one active Building Society in Belize, and a portion of the Imperial loan recently obtained, has been distributed by a Loan Board among householders in the form of loans in cases where houses have been damaged or destroyed by the hurricane.

All premises in the towns are regularly inspected by the sanitary inspectors and householders are made to keep their premises in as sanitary a condition as circumstances permit. Prosecution of offenders is not undertaken save as a last resort.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are :—

Agricultural.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts, copra and corn (maize), sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulse, and grain.

Live Stock.—Swine, cattle, and poultry.

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, logwood, rosewood, pine, yemeri, santa maria, and other secondary woods.

Marine.—Sponges, lobsters, turtle, and fish (there are numerous varieties).

Forest Produce.—Chicle.

The employment of contract labour in the agricultural industry of the Colony is confined entirely to the sugar estates in the northern districts and to a few stock farms. The length of the contract period varies from six months to fifteen months and wages paid average $19 per month.

As a rule labourers, whether contract or non-contract, are housed on the estates either in wood and iron barracks or bush huts.

In regard to coconuts and copra the organization consists of both plantation and individual agriculturists. In the case of the former labour is usually employed as required and paid by the task. The foremen or captains of gangs are as a rule employed permanently and are paid by the month.

The plantation organization is in the majority of cases operated by Europeans, whereas individual growers are mostly non-Europeans. The number of the latter far exceeds that of the former although the actual production is about equally divided. Figures for the actual number of non-European cultivators are not available.

Approximately 80 per cent of the nuts are exported as such and as copra, the remaining 20 per cent being used for oil production for home consumption.

Coconuts, the most important agricultural export, showed a further decline in 1932, the value being $24,860 as compared with $41,913 in 1931 and $68,569 in 1930.

In the case of copra there was a slight increase in the quantity exported mainly due to the demand in Mexico, but the value per pound weight fell considerably making the actual value exported almost a third less than in 1931. Value of copra exported :—

	$	*Tons* (*short*).
1930	71,865	826·6
1931	21,338	406·6
1932	14,700	497·8

The grapefruit industry is organized on plantation lines, the majority being owned by Europeans. Labour is recruited as required except in a few cases where regular gangs, amounting to about fifteen men, are regularly employed. In the case of oranges, limes, seedling grapefruit, etc., the bulk of the production is by individuals of non-European descent, who own a few scattered trees on their holdings. The fruits are grown entirely for local consumption.

Exports of citrus fruits increased in value slightly to $9,319 as compared with $8,378 in 1931. The production of the new plantings will not be felt until the 1933–34 season when it is estimated that the export should reach approximately 10,000 cases as compared to 2,106 in 1931 and 2,663 in 1932.

The bulk of the banana and plantain crops is now produced by non-European planters each working as an individual unit. At harvesting time they sometimes work in association with one another ; otherwise they work their plantations as individuals. Approximately 80 per cent of the bananas are exported as well as a very small percentage of plantains. As a result of dull markets leading to more strict grading and increased rejections on the part of buyers, the export of bananas decreased from $31,077 in 1931 to $26,910 in 1932. In the case of plantains, although the value of exports showed only a slight increase for 1932 ($178) in comparison to 1931 ($128), the number exported increased from 9,050 in 1931 to 19,550 in 1932.

Rum is produced entirely on the small sugar estates in the north and on one estate in the south. The labour required is drawn from estate labour except in the case of the "still-man," who is usually a permanent employee paid monthly. In the northern districts the production is entirely by persons of Spanish descent, while that in the south is by a European. The value of rum exported showed a slight decrease from $14,412 in 1931 to $13,748 in 1932. The production of vegetables, etc., which is almost entirely carried on by non-Europeans working as individuals, each farming a small acreage, increased perceptibly during 1932 and may be ascribed to the gradual improvement in methods of cultivation and the advent of a few Chinese market-gardeners near Belize.

Sugar-cane is organized as a plantation crop on estate lines, owned by persons of European descent and Central American Spanish descent. Labour is usually contracted. A small quantity is grown by the non-European cultivator for family consumption, and the whole of the sugar production is consumed in the Colony.

Stock-raising is confined almost entirely to persons of European and Central American Spanish descent. Owing to the decrease in the use of animal draught in timber extraction less attention is given to this industry now than previously. The use of stock for agricultural draught purposes is hardly practised at all, and consequently the number of animals kept by the native agriculturist is practically nil.

During the last few years marked improvement has taken place in regard to non-European agriculture. The advent of a fairly large number of Jamaican cultivators has appreciably raised the standard. The influence of the European planter cannot as yet be said to have affected the native cultivator. This is mainly due to the very small number of Europeans at present operating. The native of British Honduras is not a born agriculturist and thus it will be a generation or more before any pronounced improvement in his methods can be hoped for.

Exports of forest produce fell off markedly during the year, although the largest part of exports still continued to be forest produce. The percentages, by value, of the various classes of produce of domestic origin exported are shown below.

	Per cent.
Forest produce	69·59
Agricultural produce	28·12
Marine produce	2·29

The total volume of exports, however, was again greatly reduced being less than half of those of 1931, which were only 50 per cent of those of 1930. Mahogany cutting was entirely stopped on account of the large stocks held in the United States of America and the unfavourable exchange rates in the United Kingdom. The shipment of mahogany lumber, however, continued to expand. The value of chicle exports fell slightly, largely on account of price-cutting on the part of the United States.

Logwood exports were insignificant and no rosewood was cut.

The year 1932 has not, however, been a disastrous year for the forest industry. Rather has it been a year of consolidation and preparation for taking advantage of the first improvements in the timber trade. Especially noteworthy is the installation of a modern saw-mill which will be capable of sawing the whole of the Colony's annual output of mahogany. The market for sawn mahogany has recently steadily increased at the expense of the log market, and this step to take advantage of the change in markets will be beneficial to the forest industry as a whole. A second feature of the industry during the year has been the increased interest shown in timbers other than mahogany and cedar and small quantities of these "secondary woods" have been exported, mainly as sample shipments. Consolidation in this branch of the industry is being effected with the probable opening up of untapped timber resources. Thus, while activity in the forest itself was at a low ebb, energy has been so directed that 1932 will probably prove to have been the turning point towards a marked improvement in the forest industry of the Colony.

The organization of the logging industry has undergone a marked change with the development of saw-milling. The export of logs to the United Kingdom markets will practically cease, except in the case of selected figured logs, while the contracts from United States buyers will largely be replaced by contracts for the local mill. The organization of the other branches of the industry remains similar to that described in last year's Report.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The trade of the Colony, as in the previous year, was at a very low ebb throughout 1932. Contracts for the purchase of mahogany and chicle, which form the mainstay of the Colony, practically ceased altogether, thereby throwing a large number of the woodcutters and chicle-gatherers out of work.

The prices of all commodities fell in the year but as this was the case also in regard to the produce of the Colony the purchasing power of the inhabitants was not improved, and, as the year progressed, there was clear indication that a number of the people were living on savings which could not last indefinitely.

The situation already grave was made much worse by the hurricane disaster of 10th September, 1931, when relief measures had to be undertaken of necessity.

The tables included in this Report show that the volume of trade with Canada and the United Kingdom continues to increase, and that with the United States of America to decrease.

It is hoped that in the future it may be possible for sawn mahogany and cedar lumber to be exported direct to the London market. If more satisfactory direct shipping facilities between the Colony and the United Kingdom were available a greater volume of the British Honduras freight now shipped via New York would be carried in British vessels.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $3,749,322 which was less by $3,597,102 than the total of $7,346,424 in 1931.

The imports, exports. and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table :—

	1928.	*1929.*	*1930.*	*1931.*	*1932.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	4,481,748	5,056,673	4,925,330	4,435,358	2,301,838
Exports	4,041,502	4,876,875	4,534,963	2,911,066	1,447,484
Trade	8,523,250	9,933,548	9,460,293	7,346,424	3,749,322

The table following shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, the United States of America, other foreign countries in 1932 compared with the trade of 1920 :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1932.	1920.	1932.	1920.	1932.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17·45	50 87	14·88	54·26	16·17	52·18
United States of America	60·44	35·41	78·18	36·51	69·31	35·84
Other Countries	22·11	13·71	6·94	9·23	14·52	11·98

Imports.

The imports in 1932 amounted to $2,301,838 as against $4,435,358 in 1931 ; a decrease of $2,133,520.

The direction of the import trade during the years 1928–1932 is shown in the following table :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	834,681	18·62	888,406	17·57	687,324	13·95	745,024	16·80	424,339	18·43
Canada	792,411	17·68	1,105,403	21·86	1,188,837	24·14	1,289,767	29·08	704,543	30·61
Other British Possessions.	66,640	1·49	82,456	1·63	98,653	2·00	61,495	1·38	42,146	1·83
United States of America	1,795,669	40·07	1,992,670	39·41	1,730,051	35·13	1,459,006	32·90	815,093	35·41
Mexico...	528,292	11·78	410,239	8·11	563,983	11·45	357,599	8·06	92,297	4·01
Other Countries ...	464,055	10·36	577,499	11·42	656,582	13·33	522,467	11·78	223,420	9·70

Exports.

Exports amounted to $1,447,484 in 1932 or $1,463,582 less than the total of $2,911,066 in 1931. The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1928–1932 :—

	1928.		1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	439,505	10·88	324,009	6·65	153,379	3·38	145,883	5·00	63,314	4·31
Canada	294,767	7·29	233,671	4·79	331,720	7·31	105,613	3·62	51,531	3·56
Other British Possessions.	413,643	10·23	599,519	12·29	1,125,000	24·81	1,312,152	45·07	671,519	46·39
United States of America.	2,718,198	67·26	3,485,061	71·46	2,708,674	59·73	1,204,660	41·38	528,489	36·51
Other Countries ...	175,389	4·34	234,615	4·81	216,190	4·77	142,758	4·93	133,631	9·23

The mahogany exports fell so largely as to amount only to approximately 4 per cent of the total of the exports in 1928. The direction of the exports of mahogany during the five years 1928–1932 was as follows :—

	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.
Domestic Exports to—	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*
United Kingdom	2,637,622	1,286,242	589,283	694,672	2,718
France	15,972	—	—	—	—
United States of America ...	11,138,283	12,861,862	10,240,048	2,545,568	640,875
Sub-total	13,791,877	14,148,104	10,829,331	3,240,240	643,593
Re-exports to—					
United States of America ...	2,570,403	2,330,076	—	—	—
Total	16,362,280	16,478,180	10,829,331	3,240,240	643,593

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 573,276, a decrease of 69,953 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,936	72,918	74,854
United States of America ...	—	38,248	38,248
Other	783	178,701	179,484
Total ...	2,719	289,867	292,586

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	2,168	70,897	73,065
United States of America ...	—	32,828	32,828
Other	678	174,119	174,797
Total ...	2,846	277,844	280,690

The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1928	291,451	288,427	579,878
1929	312,581	312,691	625,272
1930	313,587	312,373	625,960
1931	327,271	315,958	643,229
1932	292,586	280,690	573,276

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes :—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).
(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

The average wages for agricultural labourers vary from $6·00 to $10·00 per month, including rations. Such labourers are engaged, principally, on sugar, coconut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are 9 hours a day with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are, usually, provided with free quarters (huts).

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows :—

Artisans from $1·00 to $2·00 a day ; carpenters, shipwrights, painters, and masons from $1·00 to $2·50 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging, for housemaids vary from $1·25 to $2·50 ; for cooks from $1·50 to $3·00.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows :—

Unskilled labourers, $0·75 to $1·25 a day.
Artisans, $1·00 to $2·00 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize.

The following comparison between the staple food-stuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded :—

	cents.		
1 lb. Flour	= 2½	... $1·00 per diem	= 40 lb.
1 lb. Rice	= 2½	... $1·00 ,, ,,	= 40 ,,
1 lb. Beans	= 4	... $1·00 ,, ,,	= 25 ,,
1 lb. Mess Pork	= 10	... $1·00 ,, ,,	= 10 ,,

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt-fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables, and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows :—

In Belize—in hotels—$2·50 to $3·00 a day.

In boarding houses—$2·00 a day ; $50·00 to $60·00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding houses available except at Corozal where there are a few hotels. The cost of living, generally, is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is sixty-four, fifty-four being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize where a civilian is employed ; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the teaching staff of the schools, which is regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years.

The grants for the year amounted to $71,999·94 ; $11·41 per head on an average daily attendance of 6,585.

The total cost to the Government inclusive of the cost of administration was $76,897·57, or $11·69 per head.

There are a few private schools in Belize that receive no aid.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 75; one hundred and fifty-four teachers and an average of seventy-eight pupil teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 8,038, of whom 4,242 were boys and 3,796 girls; the average attendance was 6,585. The total average roll in aided and un-aided schools was 8,385 and the average attendance 6,854.

Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking in connexion with the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the Diocesan High School for Girls conducted by the Anglican Church, the St. John's College for Boys conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, the St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the St. George's College conducted jointly by the Anglican and Methodist Churches.

The average roll in these schools was 341, and the average attendance 324; but many pupils, of tender age, are not in the secondary department. The Cambridge University Examinations are taken.

These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at these examinations. The sum of $1,155·76 was paid on the 1932 results.

There is no provision for technical education; but mention might be made here of a Government Industrial School in the Stann Creek Valley where agriculture and farming are the principal features. There are no Universities. Evening classes are conducted in a few of the schools, one being the St. John's College.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government Poor Houses, one for men and the other for women.

Out-door relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $100·00. The annual vote is $5,000·00.

A society known as "The Women's Auxiliary", in connexion with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church, assist indigent persons. Besides, each Church has its Poor Fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others.

There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members for sickness and death. Their disbursement for the year was about $3,000·00.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League has been doing excellent work. This institution is supported by voluntary contributions.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the Polo Club, the Golf Club, and Newtown Tennis Club.

There are cricket, football, and basket ball leagues; baseball is also played.

There are several musical associations. A cinema theatre in Belize affords entertainment on five days of the week. No facilities are provided in this Colony for the study of art.

The drama is given periodic attention by amateurs.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Internal transport in the Colony is mostly carried out by means of its many rivers (motor boats, pitpans, and doreys being the mediums used). Mule transport is the method of carriage between the Cayo District and the Peten District of Guatemala.

There are no roads in the Colony except a few short stretches around each town. There are, however, numerous bush tracks which are kept cleared by Government and along which motor cars can sometimes run for short distances in the dry season.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs 25 miles inland through very fertile country.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tram-car or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by automobiles, and of goods by motor trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service fortnightly between Belize and New Orleans and approximately once a month between Belize and New York by ships of the United Fruit Company.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool about once every six weeks and of the United Fruit Company from Mobile about once a fortnight call at Belize.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics.

A weekly air mail and passenger service northward through Mexico to Miami, Florida, and southward through the Central American Republics to Panama is provided by the planes of the Pan American Airways, Inc.

There are 26 post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1932 was 585,136. Money and postal order business amounting to $75,980 internal and $69,544 foreign was done in 1932.

There are 44 telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. The equipment consists of the following :—

6 KW. Marconi Valve Transmitter.
5 KW. Wireless Specialty Spark Transmitter.
50 Watt Short-wave Transmitter.
1 RG19 Marconi Receiver (tuner and amplifier).
1 Locally-made long-wave Receiver.
1 Eddystone short-wave Receiver.
1 Self-generating Power Unit.

Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica ; Quezaltenango, Guatemala ; The Tropical Radio-Telegraph Company's Station at Tela, Spanish Honduras, and from 6th December, 1932, with the Government Station at Tegucigalpa, Spanish Honduras.

During the year 1932 the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 5,262, and the number received was 5,569.

The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports, or Press messages.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces, and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners, the gold and other securities by which it is secured being, for the time being, in the custody of the Royal Bank of Canada.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	$2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts or $\frac{1}{2}$ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the Police who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

No public works of any magnitude were undertaken during the year. The total expenditure on public works during the year was $165,427·60. The principal heads of expenditure were: Personal Emoluments and Sundries $16,418; Maintenance of Public Buildings, $9,303; Maintenance and Improvement of Roads $39,850; Conservancy of Waterways $2,640; Upkeep of Piers $1,280; Sundry other recurrent work $4,257; Public Works Extraordinary including the erection of buildings for the new Agricultural Station at Stann Creek $6,180. Under the Hurricane (1931) Reconstruction Loan there was expended on repair and replacement of Government property $49,032; on reclamation and miscellaneous minor works $11,880. In addition there was expended on behalf of the Baron Bliss Trust in grading and improving the route from Belize towards Cayo the sum of $20,201. Sundry other works undertaken for the Belize Town Board and private parties on repayment, and for other departments, amounted to $4,386.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law" passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed "District Courts") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each Court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September, and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences before the Courts of the Colony during the year :—

Persons charged by Police	912	
,, ,, otherwise	10	922
Convicted summarily	663	
Acquitted summarily	184	
Committed to Supreme Court	75	922
Convicted by Supreme Court	34	
Acquitted	19	
Nolle prosequi	22	75

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of 3 officers and 118 other ranks. There are 24 stations in the Colony, 18 of which are in telephonic communication.

The Police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulations and signals. Applicants for drivers' licences are examined by the Police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward. The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells with approximately 700 cubic feet of space each. In each of the five Districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lockups. The Corozal District has the largest with concrete walls around it. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District Prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize Prison. The District Prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the Prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under sixteen who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. There is no probation system in force at present, but an Ordinance to provide for such a system has been enacted recently and will be brought into operation in due course. The general health of the prisoners at the Belize Prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

The under-mentioned Ordinances were passed during the year 1932:—

No. 1.—The Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Ordinance validates certain resolutions passed by the Legislative Council amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1929.

No. 2.—The Harbours and Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 3.—The Belize Fire Brigade (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the payment, by instalments, of fire rate not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of ten dollars.

No. 4.—The Towns Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the payment, by instalments, of property tax not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of twenty dollars.

No. 5.—The District Local Funds Supplementary Appropriation (1930–31) Ordinance.

No. 6.—The Firearms (Amendment) Ordinance prohibits the importation, etc., except under licence, of any weapon, of whatever description, designed for the discharge of any noxious liquid, gas, or other thing, or any ammunition containing or designed or adapted to contain any such noxious thing.

No. 7.—The Juvenile Offenders Ordinance makes provision for proceedings in reference to juvenile offenders.

No. 8.—The Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance validates certain resolutions passed by the Legislative Council amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1929.

No. 9.—The Finance (Amendment) Ordinance levies an additional tax of ten *per centum* on the amount of income-tax payable or paid by any person or company under the Finance Ordinance, 1931.

No. 10.—The Wireless Telegraphy (Amendment) Ordinance amends the definition of certain terms in the original Ordinance.

No. 11.—The Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment No. 3) Ordinance validates certain resolutions passed by the Legislative Council amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1929.

No. 12.—The General Revenue Supplementary Appropriation (1930–31) Ordinance.

No. 13.—The Hurricane (destruction of property by fire) Compensation Ordinance provides for compensation for the destruction by fire of houses, furniture, and other property in the town of Belize in consequence of the hurricane of September, 1931.

No. 14.—The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Amendment Ordinance.

No. 15.—The General Revenue Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 16.—The District Local Funds Appropriation Ordinance.

No. 17.—The British Honduras Constitution (Amendment) Ordinance amends the Constitution by conferring on the Governor reserve power.

No. 18.—The Undesirable Immigrants Ordinance restricts the immigration into the Colony of undesirable persons.

No. 19.—The Finance Ordinance (1931) Continuance Ordinance continues the operation of the Finance Ordinance 1931.

No. 20.—The Stamp Duties (Amendment) Ordinance increases the stamp duty payable in respect of passports and the renewal of passports.

No. 21.—The Arbitration (Protocol and Foreign Awards) Ordinance gives effect to a Protocol on Arbitration Clauses signed on behalf of His Majesty at a meeting of the Assembly of the League of Nations held on 24th September, 1923, and gives effect to a certain Convention on the Execution of Arbitral Awards.

No. 22.—The Hurricane (1931) Reconstruction Loan Ordinance authorizes the raising of a Loan for public purposes.

No. 23.—The Hurricane Loan Administration Ordinance provides for the establishment of a Loan Board in connexion with the reconstruction of Belize.

No. 24.—The Package Tax Ordinance imposes a package tax of five cents on all articles imported into the Colony.

No. 25.—The Tax on Official Salaries Ordinance imposes a tax of ten *per centum* on the salaries of certain officers in the public service.

No. 26.—The Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment No. 4) Ordinance validates a resolution of the Legislative Council amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1929.

No. 27.—The Crown Lands (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 28.—The Land and Property Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 29.—The Registration of United Kingdom Designs (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 30.—The Hurricane Loan Administration (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 31.—The Hurricane (1931) Reconstruction Loan Ordinance repeals Ordinance No. 22 above.

No. 32.—The Government Industrial School (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 33.—The Firearms (Amendment) Ordinance prescribes for the payment of a fee of $2·00 for a licence to keep a firearm.

No. 34.—The Stamp Duties (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance increases the stamp duty payable on receipts for $10 and over and on cheques, etc., issued.

No. 35.—The Police (Amendment) Ordinance amends the original Ordinance so that the Police Force of the Colony is divided into two units, viz.: (i) Civil Police and (ii) Prison Police.

No. 36.—The Trades Licensing (Belize) Amendment Ordinance varies the fee payable in Belize by commercial travellers.

No. 37.—The Extended Summary Jurisdiction (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 38.—The District Local Funds Supplementary Appropriation (1931–32) Ordinance.

No. 39.—The Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Ordinance provides for the representation by Counsel of persons whose conduct is the subject of inquiry under Chapter 15 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

No. 40.—The Arbitration (Protocol and Foreign Awards) Amendment Ordinance amends Ordinance No. 21 of 1932.

No. 41.—The Public Health (Amendment) Ordinance.

No. 42.—The Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment No. 5) Ordinance validates a resolution passed by the Legislative Council amending the Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance, 1929.

No. 43.—The Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance increases the rates of tax payable.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 31st March, 9133, amounted to $763,460 or $88,833 less than the previous year and $215,915 less than the amount estimated.

The total expenditure was $940,985, a saving of $90,247 on the estimate and $94,615 less than the expenditure in the previous year.

The totals of the revenue and expenditure for the last six years are given below :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1927–28	1,068,212	1,112,083
1928–29	1,039,666	1,046,877
1929–30	1,036,068	1,023,603
1930–31	1,160,445	1,087,047
1931–32	875,045	1,035,600
1932–33	763,460*	940,985

Public Debt.

At the close of the year the funded public debt stood at $2,598,407·34. In addition, the total outstanding on advance account in connexion with reconstruction work amounted to $111,308·44. The total of the accumulated sinking funds towards redemption of the funded debt was $229,101·54.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and company loans, and cash in hand amounted at 31st March, 1933, to a total of $928,964·77. The main liabilities were :—

Savings Bank depositors $160,707·14, and Surplus and Reserve Funds, in aid of the general revenue, with balances amounting to $81,485·90 and $118,370·90 respectively. There is a Fire Insurance

---

* This total does not include receipts from the sale of Crown Lands, the sale of leases of Crown Lands, nor Colonial Development Fund grants.

Fund with a balance of $60,748·32 to provide against loss of Government buildings by fire ; also a Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund and a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with balances of $25,880·30 and $7,832·15 respectively. The difference is made up of sundry deposits, etc.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation are :—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duty.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income-tax.
5. Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rents.

The *Customs Import Duties* are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits, and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 10 per cent and 20 per cent under the British preferential and general tariffs respectively. From 22nd December, 1931, a surtax of 25 per cent was imposed on almost all the *ad valorem* duties except articles of food, and certain increases were made on some of the specific duties. A package tax at the rate of 5 cents per package was also introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported.

An *Excise Duty* at the rate of $3·00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and entered for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 2 cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of 8 cents earmarked for improvements and road construction ; but refunds are made on improved land.

The *Income-tax* rate is low, the percentage of tax on chargeable incomes up to $30,000 being 7·3 per cent only.

Fines of Courts are casual ; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts, and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property the rate is 20 cents per $100.

Warehouse Rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years:—

	1928–29.	1929–30.	1930–31.	1931–32.	1932–33.
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import, and Export Duties.	626,895	641,844	711,745	546,785	425,858
Excise Duty	90,321	79,821	84,561	60,873	40,706
Land Tax	47,603	46,610	45,973	36,807	30,195
Income-tax	42,978	36,162	37,133	29,259	25,162
Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.	1,488	1,605	1,669	1,413	1,317
Fines of Courts	4,939	4,954	6,349	5,014	2,901
Estate Duty	1,717	2,109	944	1,429	2,172
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties	19,554	21,561	19,272	12,121	9,921
Warehouse Rents	25,996	28,019	25,155	19,040	20,798

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the financial year 1932–33, 139 applications for leases aggregating 3,446 acres of agricultural land and 86 applications for leases of 99 town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. Six hundred and twenty-six acres of agricultural land were sold to seven applicants for $2,150·75 and one town lot was sold to one applicant for $59·05. Grants were approved for a total area of 969 acres in eight parcels without payment. Of these, 607 acres in four parcels were made to claimants of parts of the two large estates surrendered in lieu of land tax at Stann Creek, 49 acres in three parcels were given in respect of service in the Volunteer Force and the Fire Brigade, and one parcel of 313 acres to the Belize Development Syndicate on conditions intended to convert a swampy and insanitary area for use as residential lots and sports grounds. Nineteen titles for 20 town and village lots and ten titles for 976 acres of agricultural land were issued.

The settlement of the boundary between the Colony and Guatemala remained in abeyance during the year owing to the preoccupation of the Government of Guatemala with the arbitration over their boundary question with Spanish Honduras. Work has been resumed since the close of the year under review.

A Government-aided Land Settlement was established at Stann Creek comprising sixty-three plots of approximately eight acres each. All the plots were occupied and the Settlement is in a fair way to become self supporting.

Events of the Year.

Sir Harold Baxter Kittermaster, K.B.E., C.M.G., formerly Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Somaliland Protectorate, arrived in the Colony on 9th March and assumed the administration of the Government of the Colony as Governor and Commander-in-Chief. Prior to his arrival the Government was administered by the Honourable H. G. Pilling, Colonial Secretary.

Honours.

In recognition of services rendered in connexion with the hurricane of 10th September, 1931, His Majesty The King was graciously pleased to confer the under-mentioned Honours :—

> The Honourable H. G. Pilling, Colonial Secretary, to be a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George ;
>
> F. R. Dragten, Esquire, K.C., to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) ;
>
> M. S. Metzgen, Esquire, to be a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) ;
>
> R. H. Eyles, Esquire, and R. B. Woods, Esquire, each awarded the Medal of the Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) for meritorious services.

On the occasion of His Majesty's birthday Mr. A. Barrow Dillon, J.P., Inspector of Schools, was made a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.

General.

On the 9th April a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to investigate claims ($77,879) for compensation for damage to property burnt by the Government, in connexion with the disposal of corpses after the hurricane of September, 1931. Compensation to the amount of $38,502 was paid.

On the morning of the 18th April a serious fire occurred in the town of Belize. Fortunately no lives were lost, but over fifty houses were destroyed and the estimated damage was $77,317, of which only $11,720 was covered by fire insurance. A relief fund in aid of the sufferers was opened by the Government and met with as good a response as could be expected under prevailing conditions in the Colony.

During the month of April the Colony was visited by Mr. F. A Stockdale, C.B.E., Agricultural Adviser to the Colonial Office.

The Loan Board established to make advances to property-owners for the reconstruction of domestic properties, on a mortgage basis, continued to function throughout the year. At the end of December loans aggregating $123,614 were issued. Of the total loan of £325,000 obtained from the Imperial Treasury for general hurricane reconstruction, development of agriculture, etc., a sum of £150,000 ($729,000 at par) has been drawn up to 31st March, 1933, of which $588,308 was expended up to the end of the financial year.

In July a Committee was appointed to consider the question of an agricultural policy for the Colony. The Report of the Committee has since been received and steps are being taken to give effect to most of the recommendations made.

The effects of the universal trade depression continued to be felt in the Colony. There was no market for the Colony's staple products, mahogany and chicle, and unemployment was more severe than in 1931. Imports during 1932 amounted to 50·2 per cent of the total for 1931, and 45·5 per cent of the total for the year 1929. Exports in 1932 amounted to 49·7 per cent of the total for 1931 and 29·7 per cent of the total for the year 1929.

In order to assist the Budget for 1932–33 the Colony was granted a loan-in-aid by the Imperial Government of £20,000. This is the first occasion so far as is known on which the Colony has been compelled to seek assistance in balancing its Budget. A sum of $26,056 was also received from the proceeds of German Reparations.

There are, however, at the date of this Report, slight indications of the revival of the mahogany and the chicle industries—on a modest scale. Approval was given for a loan of £60,000 to be made to the Belize Estate & Produce Company, Ltd., towards the cost of the erection of a modern saw-mill for the preparation principally of mahogany lumber for the export trade. The erection of the mill has since been completed and operations are expected to commence in the very near future.

It is hoped that these activities will be the forerunner of the return of an era of prosperity to the Colony.

APPENDIX.

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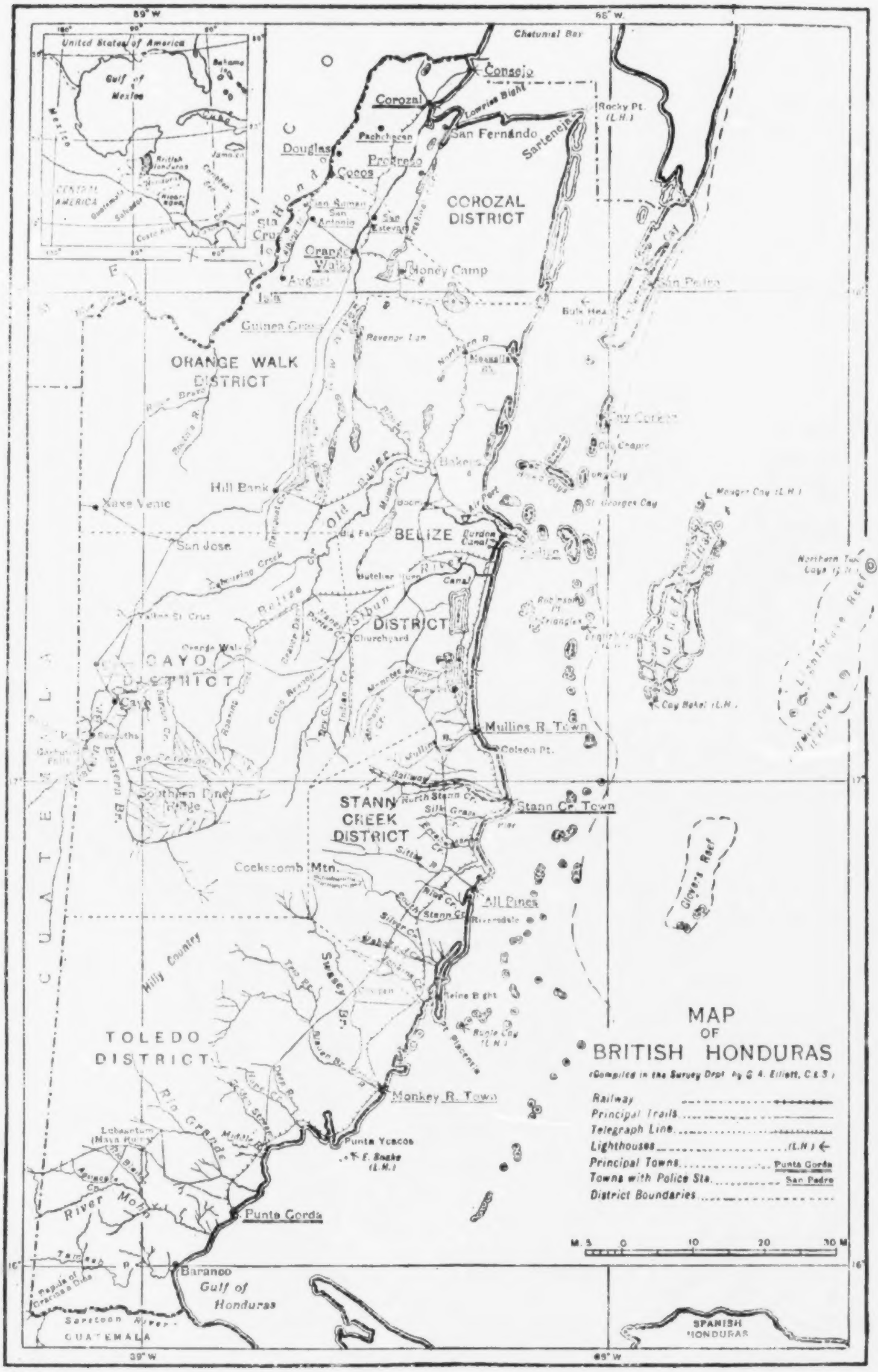
MAP
OF
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Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M.
89° W
88° W
17°
16°
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
Mexico
Bahama Is.
Jamaica
British Honduras
CENTRAL AMERICA
Guatemala
Salvador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Caribbean Sea
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Lowries Bight
Pachacan
San Fernando
Sarteneja
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
Douglas
Progreso
Cocos
San Roman
San Antonio
San Estevan
Sta Cruz
Orange Walk
August
Honey Camp
Isla
COROZAL DISTRICT
San Pedro
Guinea Grass
Revenge Lan
Northern R.
Bulk Head
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
Rio Bravo
Booth's R.
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Old River
Bakers
Cay Corker
Cay Chapel
Long Cay
St. Georges Cay
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Turneffe Is.
Lighthouse Reef
BELIZE DISTRICT
Burdon Canal
Belize
Butcher Burn
Sibun River
Churchyard
English Cay (L.H.)
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Valley St. Cruz
Orange Walk
CAYO DISTRICT
Cayo
Succotz
Garbutts Falls
Eastern Br.
Rio Frio
Southern Pine Ridge
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
Railway
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
North Stann Cr.
Stann Cr. Town
Cockscomb Mtn.
Sittee R.
South Stann Cr.
All Pines
Riversdale
Silver Cr.
Glovers Reef
Hilly Country
Swasey Br.
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Monkey R. Town
Placentia
Rio Grande
Punta Ycacos
F. Snake (L.H.)
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
Middle R.
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Barranco
Gulf of Honduras
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1933

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF BRITISH HONDURAS, 1933

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The boundaries of the Colony are defined by the River Hondo and Yucatan on the north ; by a straight line drawn from Gracias a Dios Falls on the River Sarstoon to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, thence north to the Mexican frontier on the west ; by a portion of Guatemala with the River Sarstoon on the south ; while the Bay of Honduras and the Caribbean Sea are to the east. Its greatest length is about 174 miles and width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

The mainland of the Colony is low and swampy near the coast, but rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is generally flat, but in the south it is hilly and mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb

Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The country is well watered, and its rivers, which are many, provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries with small European populations. Europeans leading a normal life and taking common precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The annual rainfall at Belize was 73·03 inches. The absolute extremes of temperature were on 5th May and 1st January, when the thermometer registered 91·5° F. and 61·5° F., respectively.

The extremes of temperature and rainfall at Belize, in respect of the last 8 years, are as follows :—

	Extremes of temperature.				*Rainfall.*
		°F.		°F.	*inches.*
1932	15th September ...	93	21st November ...	59	67·36
1931	12th May ...	89	22nd January ...	51	120·23
1930	27th May, 7th September ...	89	24th December ...	59	84·73
1929	28th September ...	90	30th January ...	57	113·57
1928	18th July ...	88·5	26th December ...	57	52·29
1927	18th August ...	88	11th January ...	56·5	68·61
1926	29th July ...	88	20th February ...	54	60·05
1925	25th May ...	91·5	24th November ...	59·5	86·01

History.

It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies, but so far as modern history goes, the Colony became known to Englishmen about 1638, probably accidentally through a shipwrecked crew. It is also probable that many years ago people from Jamaica visited the Colony and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten District of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them, but as England was at that time at war with Spain it was natural that the subjects of each King should fight whenever they met in this country. Indeed, long after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, conflicts occurred between the subjects of His Britannic Majesty and those of the King of Spain in this Colony. The Spaniards also made frequent attempts to expel Englishmen who came with their slaves from Jamaica. In 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain by the Godolphin Treaty of 8th July, with plenary right of sovereignty, all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time (Article vii). Logwood establishments increased rapidly from this date. The population of the Settlement at this date amounted to 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671 the Settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies." This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713 there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717 the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the Settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout" on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754 another attempt was made and defeated "principally by slaves" at Labouring Creek. In 1779 St. George's Caye was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the Settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Caye, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally beaten on 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Caye, thus ending the century and a-half of Spanish efforts at domination.

From that time until about 1849 there was peace, but in that year the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of this Colony, and from the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan continued to make repeated attacks on the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the Settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the Settlement, which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws".

In 1786 a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791–97 elected magistrates again ruled the Settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The Settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870 the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On 31st October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on 10th September, 1909.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding Member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided also a casting vote. Under Ordinance No. 17 of 1932, the Governor or presiding Member may, either before or after the votes of the members have been taken, "declare the passing of any Bill or any clause of it or any amendment to any such Bill or of any resolution or vote to be necessary in the interest of public order, public faith, or other first essentials of good government including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire, or to be necessary to secure within the scope of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote as aforesaid the control of finance of the Colony by His Majesty's Government for the period during which the Colony receives financial assistance from His Majesty's Exchequer". In this case "only the votes of the official members shall be taken into consideration and any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote shall be deemed to have been passed by the Council if a majority of the votes of such official members are recorded in favour of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote".

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law" passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances. Pursuant to Ordinance No. 31 of 1923 a new and revised edition of the Laws of this Colony has been published in two volumes. This edition, referred to as "The Consolidated Laws, 1924," came into force on 4th February, 1925, and supersedes the revised edition published in 1915 and all

Ordinances passed before July, 1924. Appeals to His Majesty in Council are regulated by Chapter 155 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the date of this Report there were three unofficial members.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District; and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. He is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health; markets; slaughter-houses; traffic regulation; naming, numbering, and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts; building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elective Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Caye, Caye Caulker, and Ambergris Caye.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1933 was estimated at 53,770, and consisted of 26,605 males and 27,165 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the early Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by the Caribs, while in the Toledo District the Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemaltecans, Mexicans, and a few Syrians. In the capital the " Creoles " (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring Republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows :—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in square miles.*	*Persons per square mile.*
Belize	20,469	1,623	12.61
Corozal	7,945	718	11·06
Orange Walk ...	6,413	1,462	4·38
Stann Creek	5,959	840	7.09
Toledo	6,058	2,125	2·85
Cayo	6,926	1,830	3·78
Colony	53,770	8,598	6·25

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages, and infantile mortality for 1933, with comparative figures for the previous two years :—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*
1931 ...	1,909	3·67	1,915	3·67	342	0·65	291	15·17
1932 ...	1,879	3·54	1,073	2·02	363	0·65	194	10·32
1933 ...	1,942	3·61	1,117	2·07	462	0·85	242	12·46

No record is kept of emigration and immigration.

IV.—HEALTH.

Quarantinable Diseases.—During the latter part of the year modified smallpox, known as alastrim, appeared in the Colony. Seven cases occurred in the town of Belize and an undetermined number in the western districts of the Colony, mostly in Benque Viejo, Cayo and Orange Walk.

In Belize the first six cases were quarantined at Sergeant's Caye, but as there was no mortality, and as in the absence of compulsory vaccination, it was realized that cases of the disease were likely to extend over a considerable period, isolation was abandoned and efforts were concentrated on vaccination of all contacts and quarantine of the patient in the dwelling house. A considerable number of the general public have been vaccinated, but not sufficient entirely to stamp out the disease.

The most prevalent diseases were as follows :—

(*a*) *Malaria*—accounting for 56·4 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. This disease is usually of the aestivo-autumnal type and 487 cases were treated during the year in the six hospitals in the Colony.

This disease is responsible for 7·5 per cent. of the total deaths in the Colony.

(*b*) *Dysentery*—accounting for 7·8 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. Both the amoebic and bacillary types of the disease occur. Sixty-eight cases of this disease were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony with 15 deaths.

(*c*) *Tuberculosis*—accounting for 6·2 per cent. of the total number of infectious disease. The pulmonary form of the disease is most common. Five new cases were notified during the year, and 40 cases were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony.

(*d*) *Venereal diseases* are fairly common and account for 11 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. Those diseases do not appear to be quite as prevalent as they were some time ago, probably due to the information regarding them which has been distributed by the Central Board of Health.

There are six hospitals in the Colony—one for each District of the Colony. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains sixty-two beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals ranges from nineteen to six beds. In these hospitals treatment is afforded for medical, surgical, and obstetrical cases. In Belize there is also a venereal disease ward of eight beds. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3·00 per day for each person. Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals. Accommodation for twelve destitute sufferers from this disease is provided at the Belize Poor House.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in the charge of an Assistant Medical Officer under a Principal Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize hospital there is one English trained nurse controlling a subordinate native nursing staff. At each District hospital there is a competent native nursing staff. At each District hospital there is a competent native nurse who has received a course of training at the Belize hospital extending over a period of three years.

Owing to the absence of sufficient fall to the sea, and the lack of funds to carry out effectual mechanical drainage, few drains in the town of Belize act effectively. The low-lying and swampy land in the northern portion of the town is now being reclaimed by filling it in and raising its level with sand and mud dredged from the adjoining sea. The Local Authority, Belize, also operates a dredger by which means mud taken from the harbour and canals is deposited at convenient places in the town and given to householders for the purpose of raising their low-lying and swampy lots. The canal at the north side of the town is pumped out, as occasion arises, by means of an electric pump controlled by the Local Authority, Belize. In the country districts, where there is a greater fall to the sea, efficient drains are provided and maintained by the Local Authorities.

There are six Local Authorities charged with the duty of looking after the sanitation of their respective Districts. There is also a Central Board of Health, having general power of supervision over the several Local Authorities. In Belize there are five native subordinate sanitary inspectors working under a trained Chief Sanitary Inspector, and in each of the remaining five Districts of the Colony there is also a native subordinate sanitary inspector, working under the Assistant Medical Officer of the District.

The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in Belize necessitates the storage of rain water in vats, tanks and other receptacles. Regular and thorough inspections of these water receptacles by the sanitary inspectors must be maintained in order to detect and destroy the larvae of the mosquito and in particular the yellow fever-carrying mosquito. Owing to the large number of vats destroyed by the hurricane householders have had to fall back on barrels and other improvised receptacles in which to store their water, and this has resulted in an increase in the number of mosquitoes and the necessity for increased watchfulness on the part of the sanitary inspectors. Some of the vats are kept screened by their owners but the majority are kept stocked by the sanitary inspectors with larvivorous fish. Crab holes are being treated with cyanogas (a preparation of potassium cyanide) by the sanitary staff with satisfactory results. All pools of stagnant water within the several towns are periodically oiled by the sanitary staff, a mixture of sawdust and crude oil being used for the purpose. Owing to financial stringency, operations against crabs and mosquitoes have been considerably limited during the past year. A very limited amount of quinine as a prophylactic against malaria is being distributed by the Medical Officers, free of cost, to the public.

In Belize scavenging is now being performed by motor-trucks and conditions are much improved. Buckets from latrines are regularly emptied into the sea or canals, and individual septic tanks in increasing numbers are being installed in private houses. In the out-lying towns conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages methods of disposal of excreta are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

In Belize the population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about 7 feet above the level of the ground which is often low-lying, swampy, and flooded. The work of the Town Board and the efforts of private individuals are gradually showing a marked improvement in this connexion; more especially is this so in the northern area—Freetown Area—where extensive filling in has been done in connexion with the reclamation scheme, jointly financed by the Government and the Town Board. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping room. It is generally used as a storeroom, washing room, kitchen, or garage.

Owing to the destruction caused by the hurricane in 1931 and the extensive fire which occurred early in 1932 there were barely sufficient houses in the town of Belize for the accommodation of the present number of inhabitants. Thanks to the assistance of the Loan Board this has now been remedied and there is, at the present time, a surplus of good houses.

There were no building regulations prior to the year 1928. In consequence householders erected houses how, where, and in whatever manner best suited their convenience. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back-yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in and free space around each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections. In order to deal with existing slum areas and to rectify the errors of past years legislation involving compensation to owners will be necessary. This latter cannot be undertaken in view of the present financial condition of the Colony and of the municipal authorities.

Regulations have now been framed with a view to ensuring that, in future, houses will be erected in such a manner as to afford greater protection against hurricanes.

There are several residents in the town of Belize who own extensive house property which is rented out to tenants, but there are also very many working people who own or partly own the houses in which they live.

All premises in the towns are regularly inspected by the sanitary inspectors and householders are made to keep their premises in as sanitary a condition as circumstances permit. Prosecution of offenders is not undertaken save as a last resort.

In the other towns of the Colony there is ample housing accommodation.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are :—

Agricultural.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts, copra and corn (maize), sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulse, and rice.

Live Stock.—Swine, cattle, and poultry.

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, logwood, rosewood, pine, yemeri, santa maria, and other secondary woods.

Marine.—Sponges, lobsters, turtle, and fish (there are numerous varieties).

Forest Produce.—Chicle.

The employment of contract labour in the agricultural industry of the Colony is confined entirely to the sugar estates in the northern districts and to a few stock farms. The length of the contract period varies from six months to fifteen months and wages paid average $19 per month, including rations.

As a rule labourers, whether contract or non-contract, are housed on the estates either in wooden iron-roofed barracks or bush huts.

In regard to coconuts and copra the organization consists of both plantation and individual agriculturists. In the case of the former labour is usually employed as required and paid by the task. The foremen or captains of gangs are as a rule employed permanently and are paid by the month.

The plantation organization is in the majority of cases operated by Europeans, whereas individual growers are mostly non-Europeans. The number of the latter far exceeds that of the former although the actual production is about equally divided. Figures for the actual number of non-European cultivators are not available.

Approximately 80 per cent. of the nuts are exported as such and as copra, the remaining 20 per cent. being used for oil production for home consumption.

The coconut industry more than any other agricultural industry in the Colony still suffers from the effects of the world slump in agricultural products. Prices during the year have been extremely low, so much so that planters have found it difficult to spend money on collecting nuts, much less on keeping their plantations clean. Exports of coconuts and copra during the last two years were as follows :—

		1932.		1933.	
		Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Coconuts ...	No.	2,974,220	24,860	3,610,450	32,367
Copra	lb.	995,704	14,700	818,233	11,742

The grapefruit industry is organized on plantation lines, the majority being owned by Europeans. Labour is recruited as required except in a few cases where regular gangs, amounting to about fifteen men, are regularly employed. In the case of oranges, limes, seedling grapefruit, etc., the bulk of the production is by individuals of non-European descent, who own a few scattered trees on their holdings. Previous to the year under review the last named fruits were grown entirely for local consumption.

During the year the citrus growers in Stann Creek formed the British Honduras Citrus Association which body now handles the packing and marketing of all fruit produced in the area. It has established an up-to-date packing house equipped with modern machinery for washing, grading and sizing fruit. The plant was not, however, ready to start operations until the last month in the year. Exports during the year showed a marked increase and a greater variety of citrus fruits was shipped.

The figures quoted below represent exports for the calendar year and are therefore not representative of the seasonal production, the season being approximately from September to May.

		1931.	1932.	1933.
Grapefruit ...	Cases	2,106	2,663	5,094
Oranges ...	,,	—	—	420
Tangerines ...	,,	—	—	62

It is now estimated that the total exports of citrus fruits for the season 1933–34 will exceed 10,000 cases and may reach 14,000 cases. Small shipments have been made from the northern districts where two or three planters are engaged in citrus fruit production. This fruit, although packed at the point of production, is marketed on behalf of the growers by the Citrus Association.

The bulk of the banana and plantain crops is now produced by non-European planters each working as an individual unit. At harvesting time they sometimes work in association with one another; otherwise they work their plantations as individuals. Approximately 80 per cent. of the bananas grown in the Colony are exported as well as a small percentage of plantains. Markets improved somewhat during the year due in a large measure to the efforts of trading schooners. These schooners purchased fruit at the coast (in the case of Stann Creek at the rail side) and carried the bulk to Tampa, Florida. As a result of this new enterprise exports increased to 141,662 bunches as against 78,867 bunches in 1932, valued at $48,239 and $26,970 respectively. The planting of bananas has also increased due to the opening up of new markets and it is anticipated that the 1934 shipments will reach the quarter million mark. Developments in the planting of this crop are taking place in the Punta Gorda District.

The export of plantains increased considerably from 19,500 (number of fingers) valued at $178 to 203,000 valued at $1,599. This increase of shipments also was due largely to the purchases made by the trading schooners.

Rum is produced entirely on the small sugar estates in the north and on one estate in the south. The labour required is drawn from estate labour except in the case of the "still-man", who is usually a permanent employee paid monthly. In the northern districts the production is entirely by persons of Spanish descent, while that in the south is by a European. The exports of rum again showed a decrease:—

	Gallons.	$
1931	14,412	14,412
1932	13,748	13,748
1933	10,815	10,824

During the year maturing vats were erected by the Customs authorities and encouragement given to producers to store their rum on easy terms. It is hoped that this facility will improve the quality of locally produced rum.

The production of fresh vegetables showed a decided improvement, but much headway has still to be made in quality. The production of ground provisions, e.g., sweet potatoes, yams, etc., also showed an increase. Marketing facilities, however, are still very poor and distribution requires much improvement. Unfortunately the consumer still retains the taste for imported articles of diet and great difficulty is being experienced in educating the housewife to develop a taste for locally grown produce. This applies particularly to the use of maize products in place of wheaten flour, locally grown root crops in place of the Irish potato, and local rice and pulses in place of the imported articles.

Sugar-cane is organized as a plantation crop on estate lines, owned by persons of European descent and Central American Spanish descent. Labour is usually contracted. A small quantity is grown by the non-European cultivator for family consumption, and the whole of the sugar production is consumed in the Colony. Attempts have been made during the year to reorganize the sugar industry and schemes have been put up by interested parties for the establishment of up-to-date central factories, one in the north and one in the south. It is not possible to state yet whether any success will be reached in these ventures but it would appear that one central factory at least would greatly assist the industry, which is now almost dormant. There appears ample room for a central factory with an output of between 2,000 and 3,000 tons per annum as a large proportion of this quantity of sugar would find a ready local market.

Stock-raising is confined almost entirely to persons of European and Central American Spanish descent. Owing to the decrease in the use of animal draught in timber extraction less attention is given to this industry now than previously. The use of stock for agricultural draught purposes is hardly practised at all, and consequently the number of animals kept by the native agriculturist is practically nil. During the year a definite improvement took place in the use of locally bred cattle for butchering purposes. The imports of cattle for this purpose were nil and it is to be hoped that in future the demand for locally raised beef will increase. Schemes for the improvement of the local herds, as well as for the improvement of local pigs are in hand.

A promising industry, viz., the production of rice, is gaining headway. During the year increased areas were planted under rice, greater areas probably than during the last three decades. Government, in 1932, re-erected an old rice mill that had been purchased in 1920 and which had hardly been used. The mill is in the charge of the Department of Agriculture. It purchases paddy outright, mills it, and carries out the duties of marketing. The response by the planters to the facilities provided for disposing of their rice crop has been most encouraging. Although the quantities handled are infinitesimal as compared with world production, the increase during the last three years is quite remarkable.

Paddy purchased :—

1930–31 ...	... 12,014 lb.	Mill temporarily erected.
1931–32 ...	... 12,135 ,,	
1932–33 ...	... 15,169 ,,	
1933–34 ...	... 175,005 ,,	

It has been found, however, that the local consumer is still wedded to the imported rice ; consequently the disposal of the local article has caused a certain amount of trouble and stocks have had to be held rather longer than was at first anticipated.

During the last few years marked improvement has taken place in regard to non-European agriculture. The advent of a fairly large number of Jamaican cultivators has appreciably raised the standard. The influence of the European planter cannot as yet be said to have affected the native cultivator. This is mainly due to the very small number of Europeans at present operating. The native of British Honduras is not a born agriculturist and thus it will be a generation or more before any pronounced improvement in his methods can be hoped for.

The value of exports of forest produce showed a rise of nearly 50 per cent. over 1932 figures. Values and percentages for export of domestic produce of the main classes were as follows :—

	$	*Per cent. of total.*
Forest produce	304,172	70·86
Agricultural produce	120,074	27·97
Marine produce	4,991	1·17

The total value of domestic exports rose from $322,649 in 1932 to $429,237 in 1933. Export of mahogany in the log decreased considerably, but the manufacture and shipment of mahogany lumber from the new mill in Belize increased to 531,141 s. ft.

The great influence of the local sawmill on the organization of the mahogany export trade is shown by the following figures :—

	1932.	1933.
Mahogany logs exported, M. s. ft. ...	644	109
Mahogany lumber exported, M. s. ft. ...	226	531
	870	640

which show the increase in the market for sawn mahogany at the expense of the log export market. The United Kingdom is now able to obtain its mahogany lumber requirements direct from the Colony, instead of through the United States of America sawmills as was largely the case in the past.

The export of chicle rose from 280,000 lb. in 1932 to 727,000 lb. in 1933, but the shipments were entirely of old stocks ; little chicle-bleeding was carried out during the year. The average price of chicle over the year, as shown by Customs returns, fell from 34½ c. to 29 c. per lb.

Logwood exports were insignificant at 136 tons and no rosewood was cut, but progress was made in the consolidation of the secondary woods market, large-scale test shipments of banak and santa maria being made by the Forest Department to the Forest Products

Research Laboratory in England and various other trial shipments being made by private operators. Further advance may be hoped for following the secondment of the Conservator of Forests to England for the purpose of studying markets for secondary woods. Progress has been made with assessment of stocks in promising districts.

Though no great advance in actual trade in forest products can be claimed much work was carried out the full value of which will be appreciated as markets continue to recover from the depression, as they were beginning to do at the close of the year 1933.

VII.—COMMERCE.

With the almost complete cessation of the mahogany and chicle industries on which the Colony has always been dependent in large measure and the resulting serious curtailment of business generally, trade further decreased in 1933. The building boom of the previous year, necessitated by the hurricane disaster of 1931, dwindled continuously as the year advanced. Against this some slight improvement was shown toward the end of the year and there was evidence of at least a temporary revival of our main industries, but on a very much reduced scale.

A cheering feature was the increase in the export of mahogany lumber due to the activities of the new sawmill. It is anticipated that this mill will work to full capacity in 1934 and help materially to re-establish a limited portion of our mahogany industry.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $2,729,207 which was less by $1,020,115 than the total of $3,749,322 in 1932.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	5,056,673	4,925,330	4,435,358	2,301,838	1,687,112
Exports	4,876,875	4,534,963	2,911,066	1,447,484	1,042,095
Trade	9,933,548	9,460,293	7,346,424	3,749,322	2,729,207

The following table shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, the United States of America, and other foreign countries in 1933 compared with the trade of 1920 :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1933.	1920.	1933.	1920.	1933.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17·45	47·04	14·88	54·48	16·17	49·88
United States of America	60·44	37·57	78·18	36·25	69·31	37·07
Other Countries	22·11	15·39	6·94	9·27	14·52	13·05

Imports.

The imports in 1933 amounted to $1,687,112 as against $2,301,838 in 1932; a decrease of $614,726.

The direction of the import trade during the years 1929–1933 is shown in the following table :—

	1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	888,406	17·57	687,324	13·95	745,024	16·80	424,339	18·43	418,511	24·81
Canada	1,105,403	21·86	1,188,837	24·14	1,289,767	29·08	704,543	30·61	326,433	19·35
Other British Possessions.	82,456	1·63	98,653	2·00	61,495	1·38	42,146	1·83	48,578	2·88
United States of America	1,992,670	39·41	1,730,051	35·13	1,459,006	32·90	815,093	35·41	633,900	37·57
Mexico...	410,239	8·11	563,983	11·45	357,599	8·06	92,297	4·01	78,978	4·67
Other Countries ...	577,499	11·42	656,582	13·33	522,467	11·78	223,420	9·70	180,712	10·72

Exports.

Exports amounted to $1,042,095 in 1933 or $405,389 less than the total of $1,447,484 in 1932. The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1929–1933 :—

	1929.		1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	324,009	6·65	153,379	3·38	145,883	5·00	63,314	4·31	86,642	8·31
Canada	233,671	4·79	331,720	7·31	105,613	3·62	51,531	3·56	126,925	12·18
Other British Possessions.	599,519	12·29	1,125,000	24·81	1,312,152	45·07	671,519	46·39	354,276	33·99
United States of America.	3,485,061	71·46	2,708,674	59·73	1,204,660	41·38	528,489	36·51	377,742	36·25
Other Countries ...	234,615	4·81	216,190	4·77	142,758	4·93	133,631	9·23	96,510	9·27

The exports of mahogany logs fell so largely as to amount only to approximately ·66 per cent. of the total of the exports in 1929. The direction of the exports of mahogany logs during the five years 1929–1933 was as follows :—

	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.
	S. Feet.	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*	*S. Feet.*
Domestic Exports to—					
United Kingdom	1,286,242	589,283	694,672	2,718	109,245
France	—	—	—	—	—
United States of America ...	12,861,862	10,240,048	2,545,568	640,875	—
Sub-total	14,148,104	10,829,331	3,240,240	643,593	109,245
Re-exports to—					
United States of America ...	2,330,076	—	—	—	—
Total	16,478,180	10,829,331	3,240,240	643,593	109,245

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam, and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 479,528, a decrease of 93,748 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,725	91,056	92,781
United States of America ...	632	20,042	20,674
Other	1,474	127,359	128,833
Total ...	3,831	238,457	242,288

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,814	90,873	92,687
United States of America ...	632	16,950	17,582
Other	1,352	125,619	126,971
Total ...	3,798	233,442	237,240

The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1929	312,581	312,691	625,272
1930	313,587	312,373	625,960
1931	327,271	315,958	643,229
1932	292,586	280,690	573,276
1933	242,288	237,240	479,528

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes :—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).
(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

The average wage for agricultural labourers is $15 per month, including rations. Such labourers are engaged, principally, on sugar, coconut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are 9 hours a day with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are, usually, provided with free quarters (huts).

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows :—

> Artisans from $1·00 to $1·50 a day; carpenters, shipwrights, painters, and masons from $1·00 to $2·00 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging, for housemaids vary from $1·25 to $2·50; for cooks from $1·50 to $2·50.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows :—

Unskilled labourers, $0·50 to $1·00 a day.
Artisans, $1·00 to $1·50 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize.

The following comparison between the staple foodstuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded :—

		cents.		$			
1 lb. Flour	=	2½	...	0·75 per diem		=	30 lb.
1 ,, Rice	=	2½	...	0·75	,,	=	30 ,,
1 ,, Beans	=	4	...	0·75	,,	=	18·75 lb.
1 ,, Mess Pork	=	10	...	0·75	,,	=	7·5 ,,
1 ,, Sugar	=	4	...	0·75	,,	=	18·75 ,,

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt-fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables, and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows :—

In Belize—in hotels—$2·00 to $3·00 a day.

In Boarding Houses—$2·00 a day; $50·00 to $60·00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding houses available except at Corozal where there are a few hotels. The cost of living, generally, is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is sixty-four, fifty-three being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize where a civilian is employed; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the teaching staff of the schools, which is regulated by the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years.

The grants for the year amounted to $61,520·54; $9·40 per head on an average daily attendance of 6,545. Because of a considerable decrease in Government revenue the grants for education had to be greatly reduced.

The total cost to the Government inclusive of the cost of administration was $66,066·62, or $10·09 per head.

There are a few private schools in Belize that receive no aid.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 75 ; one hundred and fifty-two teachers and an average of sixty pupil teachers were employed ; the average enrolment at all schools was 8,152, of whom 4,291 were boys and 3,861 girls ; the average attendance was 6,545. The total average roll in aided and unaided schools was 8,477 and the average attendance 6,802.

Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking conducted by the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the Diocesan High School for Girls conducted by the Anglican Church, the St. John's College for Boys conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, the St. Catherine's Academy conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the St. George's College conducted jointly by the Anglican and Methodist Churches.

The average roll in these schools was 412, and the average attendance 307 ; but many pupils, of tender age, are not in the secondary department. The Cambridge University Examinations are taken.

These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at these examinations. The sum of $821·50 was paid on the 1933 results.

There is no provision for technical education ; but mention might be made here of a Government Industrial School in the Stann Creek Valley where agriculture and farming are the principal features. There are no Universities. Evening classes are conducted in a few of the schools, one being the St. John's College.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government Poor Houses, one for men and the other for women.

Out-door relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $112·00. The annual vote is $5,000·00. This had to be supplemented by Special Warrants. There was also a donation of $500·00 from Hurricane Relief Funds to meet extra out-door relief.

In consequence of continued economic depression in the industries and trades, unemployment relief was given to the amount of $1,882·24. There was a vote of $5,000·00 for this purpose.

A society known as " The Women's Auxiliary ", in connexion with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church and the Methodist Nursing Association assist indigent persons. Besides, each Church has its Poor Fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others.

There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members for sickness and death. Their disbursement for the year was about $2,700·00.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League continued to do good work during 1933, with Dr. Cran as President and Mrs. Cran as Honorary Secretary, assisted by a number of ladies. The League receives a small subsidy from Government and contributions are made by the public in cash and kind. Medical and dental practitioners give their services voluntarily to the clinics which are held once a week.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the Polo Club, the Golf Club, and Newtown Tennis Club.

There are cricket, football, and basket ball leagues; baseball is also played.

There are several musical associations. A cinema theatre in Belize affords entertainment on five days of the week. No facilities are provided in this Colony for the study of art.

The drama is given periodic attention by amateurs.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Internal transport in the Colony is mostly carried out by means of its many rivers (motor boats, pitpans, and doreys being the mediums used). Mule transport is the method of carriage between the Cayo District and the Peten District of Guatemala.

There are no roads in the Colony except a few short stretches around each town. There are, however, numerous bush tracks which are kept cleared by Government and along which motor-cars can sometimes run for short distances in the dry season.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs 25 miles inland through very fertile country.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tram-car or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by automobiles, and of goods by motor-trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service between Belize and New Orleans weekly via Puerto Barrios, about once every three weeks via Cuba and Jamaica, and approximately once a month direct by ships of the United Fruit Company.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda, and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool about once every four weeks and of the United Fruit Company from Mobile about once a month call at Belize.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics.

A weekly air mail and passenger service northward through Mexico to Miami, Florida, and southward through the Central American Republics to Panama is provided by the 'planes of the Pan American Airways, Inc.

There are 26 post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1933 was 794,894. Money and postal order business amounting to $55,124 internal and $50,309 foreign was done in 1933.

There are 45 telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. The equipment consists of the following :—

6 KW. Marconi Valve Transmitter.
5 KW. Spark Transmitter.
200 Watt Short-Wave Transmitter.
50 Watt ,, ,,
1 RG19 Marconi Receiver.
1 Long Wave Receiver (locally made).
2 Short-Wave Receivers.
1 Low Power Generating Unit.

Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica ; Guatemala City, and Quezaltenango, Guatemala ; and New Orleans, United States of America.

During the year 1933 the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 4,821, and the number received was 5,325.

The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports or Press messages.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43 respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces, and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of

America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners, the gold and other securities by which it is secured being, for the time being, in the custody of the Royal Bank of Canada.

On the 21st of April an Ordinance was assented to providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, the silver coins of the Colony shall be legal tender in the Colony for all purposes and to any amount. A suspending clause provides for the bringing into operation of the Ordinance, by Proclamation, on such day as the Governor shall direct and appoint.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the Police, who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

The total expenditure on public works during the year was $109,133. The principal heads of expenditure were : Personal Emoluments and Sundries $15,453 ; Maintenance of Public Buildings, $9,193 ; Maintenance and Improvement of Roads, $40,513 ; Conservancy of Waterways, $2,376 ; Upkeep of Piers, $522 ; Sundry other recurrent work, $4,617 ; Public Works Extraordinary, including a contribution of $4,500 to the Belize Town Board towards roads in Mesopotamia Area, $10,219. Under the Hurricane (1931) Reconstruction Loan there was expended $5,940 ; on reclamation, $12,105 ; sundry other works undertaken for the Belize Town Board and private parties on repayment, and for other departments, amounted to $8,195.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed " District Courts ") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each Court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July, and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September, and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences (excluding petty misdemeanours and petty offences) before the Courts of the Colony during the year :—

Persons charged by Police	257	
,, ,, otherwise	117	
	—	374
Convicted summarily	281	
Acquitted summarily	55	
Committed to Supreme Court	38	
	—	374
Convicted by Supreme Court	26	
Acquitted	6	
Nolle prosequi	6	
	—	38

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of 3 officers and 118 other ranks. There are 24 stations in the Colony, 18 of which are in telephonic communication.

The Police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulations and signals. Applicants for motor drivers' licences are examined by the Police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward. The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells with approximately 700 cubic feet of space each. In each of the five Districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lockups. The Corozal District has the largest with concrete walls around it. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District Prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize Prison. The District Prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the Prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under sixteen who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. There is no probation system in force at present, but an Ordinance to provide for such a system has been enacted recently and will be brought into operation in due course. The general health of the prisoners at the Belize Prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Ordinances.

Thirty-one Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the under-mentioned are the more important :—

No. 10 of 1933.—The British Honduras Chamber of Commerce (Amendment) Ordinance. This Ordinance revives the British Honduras Chamber of Commerce.

No. 12 of 1933.—The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance. This Ordinance gives effect to certain Conventions of the International Labour Organization of the League of Nations, regulating the employment of women, young persons and children.

No. 13 of 1933.—The Silver Coin Ordinance. This Ordinance (when brought into operation) makes the silver coin of the Colony legal tender.

No. 25 of 1933.—The Agricultural Society Ordinance incorporating the British Honduras Agricultural Society.

No. 26 of 1933.—The Exportation of Fruit Ordinance regulates the export of locally grown citrus fruit.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The revenue of the Colony for the financial year ended 31st March, 1934, amounted to $1,056,244 or $162,528 more than the previous year and $257,134 more than the amount estimated. During the year the Reserve and Fire Insurance Funds were realized in aid of the General Revenue. Investments on behalf of the Widows' and Orphans' Funds were similarly realized and transferred and pensions under the scheme will in future be paid from General Revenue. The total transferred amounted to $263,869·81. In addition a loan-in-aid of £20,000 representing $103,600 at exchange current was received from the Imperial Treasury.

The total expenditure was $958,233, a saving of $1,790 on the estimate and $17,248 more than the expenditure in the previous year.

The totals of the revenue and expenditure for the last six years are given below :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1928–29	1,039,666	1,046,877
1929–30	1,036,068	1,023,603
1930–31	1,160,445	1,087,047
1931–32	875,045	1,035,600
1932–33	763,460*	940,985
1933–34	1,056,244	958,233

Public Debt.

At the close of the year the funded public debt stood at $2,702,795·71. In addition, the total outstanding on advance account in connexion with reconstruction work amounted to $131,826·55. The total of the accumulated sinking funds towards redemption of the funded debt was $324,012·57.

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* This total does not include receipts from the sale of Crown Lands, the sale of leases of Crown Lands, nor Colonial Development Fund grants.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets, which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and company loans, and cash in hand, amounted at 31st March, 1933, to a total of $670,788·05. The main liabilities were :—

> Savings Bank depositors $243,116·59, advances from Joint Colonial Fund $76,800, and Loan Funds (1921, 1927 and 1928) $60,720·46.

There is a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with balance of $10,337·83. The difference is made up of sundry deposits, etc.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation are :—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duty.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income-tax.
5. Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rents.

The *Customs Import Duties* are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits, and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 10 per cent. and 20 per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs respectively. From 22nd December, 1931, a surtax of 25 per cent. was imposed on almost all the *ad valorem* duties except articles of food, and certain increases were made on some of the specific duties. A package tax at the rate of 5 cents per package was also introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported.

An *Excise Duty* at the rate of $3·00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and entered for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 2½ cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of a maximum of 50 cents an acre, all of which above 10 cents is earmarked for improvements and road construction ; but refunds are made on improved land.

The Income-tax rate is low, the percentage of tax on chargeable incomes up to $30,000 being 7·3 per cent. only.

Fines of Courts are casual ; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts, and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property the rate is 20 cents per $100.

Warehouse Rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years :—

	1929–30.	1930–31.	1931–32.	1932–33.	1933-34.
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import, and Export Duties.	641,844	711,745	546,785	425,858	376,227
Excise Duty	79,821	84,561	60,873	40,706	34,816
Land Tax	46,610	45,973	36,807	30,195	27,431
Income-tax	36,162	37,133	29,259	25,162	10,539
Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.	1,605	1,669	1,413	1,317	1,034
Fines of Courts	4,954	6,349	5,014	2,901	2,126
Estate Duty	2,109	944	1,429	2,172	2,874
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties	21,561	19,272	12,121	9,921	8,251
Warehouse Rents	28,019	25,155	19,040	20,798	18,033

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the financial year 1933–34 120 applications for leases aggregating 3,066 acres of agricultural land and 56 applications for leases of 78 town and village lots were approved and taken up by lessees. Sixty-nine acres of agricultural land were sold to one applicant for $239·75 and three town lots were sold to two applicants for $80·00. Grants were approved for a total area of 115·41 acres in four parcels without payment. Of these, 100 acres in one parcel were made to a claimant of part of one of the two large estates surrendered in lieu of land tax at Stann Creek. 15·41 acres in three parcels were given to three applicants in compensation for extinguishment of their right to cultivate in the Carib Reserve in accordance with section 19 of Chapter 88. Thirteen titles for 13 town and village lots and six titles for 123 acres of agricultural land were issued.

The opening of the boundary between the Colony and Guatemala is nearing completion.

General.

On 12th June His Excellency Sir Harold Kittermaster, K.B.E., C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence. He returned to the Colony on 20th October. During his absence the Government was administered by the Honourable H. G. Pilling, C.M.G.

Mr. Pilling proceeded on leave of absence on 9th December prior to his assumption of duties as Deputy Colonial Secretary of Kenya.

On 1st May, in accordance with Article VII of the Canada-West Indies Trade Agreement of 1925, the Government of British Honduras gave six months' notice to the Canadian Government that from and after the 1st of November, in order to be entitled to certain preferential concessions under Articles IV and V of the Agreement, the products of Canada shall be conveyed to British Honduras without transhipment by ships direct from a Canadian port, or by way of one of the other Colonies entitled to the advantages of the Agreement.

On the occasion of His Majesty's birthday The King was graciously pleased to appoint W. A. J. Bowman, Esq., to be an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

In August the Secretary of State for the Colonies appointed Sir Alan Pim, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Financial Commissioner, to visit the Colony for the purpose of carrying out an investigation into its financial policy and economic prospects. The Commissioner, accompanied by Mr. S. E. V. Luke (Assistant Principal, Colonial Office) as Secretary, arrived in Belize during November and spent about two months in the Colony. The Report of the Commissioner has since been published.

In October, under the Chairmanship of His Honour C. W. W. Greenidge, Chief Justice, a Delegation from this Colony attended the West Indian Inter-Colonial Fruit and Vegetable Conference at Kingston, Jamaica.

Mr. B. H. Easter, M.B.E., Director of Education, Jamaica, visited the Colony in December to report on education ; his report has since been received.

In order to assist the Budget for 1933–34 the Colony received from the Imperial Exchequer a sum of £20,000.

The saw-mill erected by The Belize Estate and Produce Company, Ltd., operated during the year and provided employment for quite a number of the unskilled labourers of Belize.

APPENDIX.

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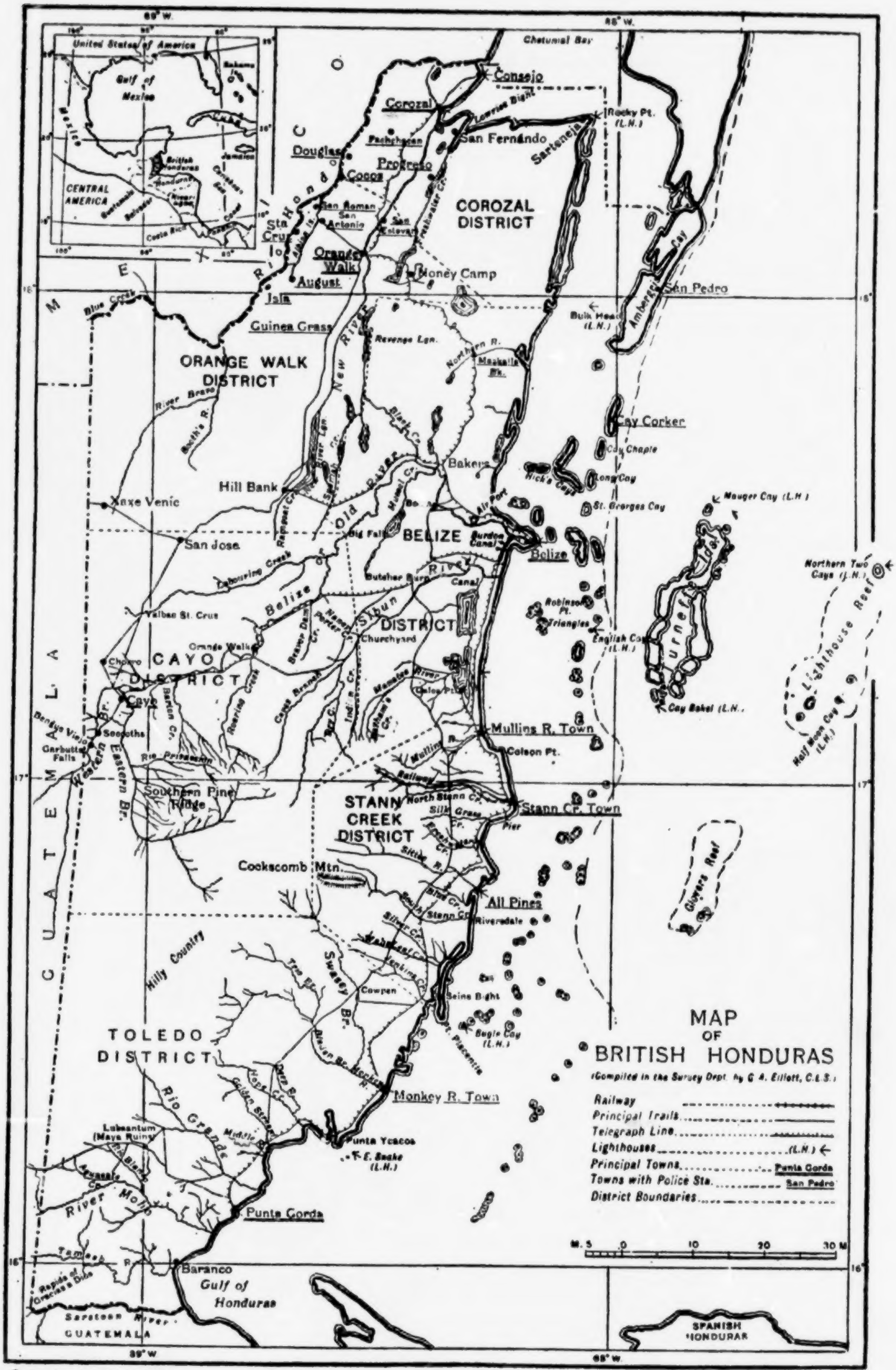

MAP
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept. by C. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.) ←
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
Bahamas
Cuba
Jamaica
CENTRAL AMERICA
British Honduras
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
San Fernando
Sarteneja
Douglas
Progreso
Cocos
San Roman
San Antonio
COROZAL DISTRICT
Orange Walk
August
Isla
Honey Camp
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Bulk Head (L.H.)
Blue Creek
Guinea Grass
Revenge Lgn.
Northern R.
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
River Bravo
New River
Cay Corker
Cay Chaple
Long Cay
Hick's Cay
St. Georges Cay
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
Bakers
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
Old River
Big Falls
BELIZE
Belize
Burdon Canal
San Jose
Labouring Creek
Butcher Burn
Belize River
Sibun
DISTRICT
Canal
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Lighthouse Reef
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Turneffe Isl.
Robinson Pt.
Triangles
English Cay (L.H.)
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
Valban St. Cruz
Orange Walk
Churchyard
Chorro
CAYO DISTRICT
Cayo
Benque Viejo
Socotz
Garbutts Falls
Western Br.
Eastern Br.
Rio Frio
Southern Pine Ridge
Manatee River
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
Railway
North Stann Cr.
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Stann Cr. Town
Pier
Cockscomb Mtn.
Glovers Reef
All Pines
South Stann Cr.
Riversdale
Hilly Country
Swasey Br.
Cowpen
Seine Bight
Pt. Placentia
Ragle Cay (L.H.)
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Monkey R. Town
Rio Grande
Golden Stream
Middle R.
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
Punta Ycacos
E. Snake (L.H.)
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Baranco
Gulf of Honduras
Rapids of Gracias a Dios
Sarstoon River
GUATEMALA
MEXICO
SPANISH HONDURAS
89° W
88° W
18°
17°
16°

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The Colony is bounded on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the north and north-west by Mexico, and on the west and south-west by Guatemala. The frontier with Mexico follows the course of the River Hondo; that with Guatemala follows the course of the River Sarstoon on the south, continuing by a line drawn from the Gracias a Dios Falls, on the River Sarstoon, to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, and from Garbutt's Falls due north to the Mexican frontier. The greatest length of the Colony is about 174 miles and the greatest width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

A number of " cays " and reefs lie off the mainland of the Colony at varying distances from the coast, in an almost continuous line from the point of the Yucatan peninsula to the southern boundary of the Colony. The largest of these are Ambergris Cay and Cay Caulker, while the Turneffe group of cays covers a large area.

Near the coast the land is low and swampy, but gradually rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is low-lying, but further south the country is hilly and even mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The Colony is well watered, and its numerous rivers provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries. Europeans leading a normal life and taking ordinary precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The average rainfall at Belize was 87·31 inches for the last five years.

The extremes of temperature and the rainfall at Belize for the last ten years were as follows :—

	Extremes of temperature.				*Rainfall.*
		°F.		°F.	*inches.*
1934	16th April ...	93	13th December ...	56	91·21
1933	5th May ...	91·5	1st January ...	61·5	73·03
1932	15th September ...	93	21st November ...	59	67·36
1931	12th May ...	89	22nd January ...	51	120·23
1930	27th May, 7th September ...	89	24th December ...	59	84·73
1929	28th September ...	90	30th January ...	57	113·57
1928	18th July ...	88·5	26th December ...	57	52·29
1927	18th August ...	88	11th January ...	56·5	68·61
1926	29th July ...	88	20th February ...	54	60·05
1925	25th May ...	91·5	24th November ...	59·5	86·01

History.

It is probable that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. The country first became known to Englishmen about 1638. It is probable that settlers from Jamaica visited the country and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves in what is now British Honduras. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them and, as England was frequently at war with Spain in those days, such conflicts were natural. Even after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, there was fighting between the subjects of the King of England and those of the King of Spain in Central America. The Spaniards made frequent attempts to expel the Englishmen and their slaves, but in 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time. The population of the British settlement in and near Belize, the chief town, included at this date 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671, the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713, there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717, the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout," on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754, another attempt was made by the Spaniards and defeated "principally by slaves," at Labouring Creek. In 1779, St. George's Cay was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Cay, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally defeated on the 10th of September, 1798, at St. George's Cay, after trying for a century and a-half to expel the British.

In the year 1849 the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many Spaniards were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of British Honduras. From the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan made repeated raids into the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people". This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

In 1786, a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791 to 1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870, the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On the 31st of October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on the 10th of September, 1909.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided, also a casting vote. Under Ordinance No. 17 of 1932, the Governor or presiding member may, either before or after the votes of the members have been taken, "declare the passing of any Bill or any clause of it or any amendment to any such Bill or of any resolution or vote to be necessary in the interest of public order, public faith, or other first essentials of good government including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire, or to be necessary to secure within the scope of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote as aforesaid the control of finance of the Colony by His Majesty's Government for the period during which the Colony receives financial assistance from His Majesty's Exchequer." In this case "only the votes of the official members shall be taken into consideration and any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote shall be deemed to have been passed by the Council if a majority of the votes of such official members are recorded in favour of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote".

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the close of the year under review there were three unofficial members.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk

District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District, and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. Except in the case of the Belize District, he is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, the naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elected Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Cay, Cay Caulker, and Ambergris Cay.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1934 was estimated at 54,744, and consisted of 27,065 males and 27,679 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by Caribs, while in the Toledo District Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemaltecans, Mexicans, and a few Syrians. In the capital the "Creoles" (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in square miles.*	*Persons per square mile.*
Belize	20,930	1,623	12.89
Corozal	8,017	718	11·16
Orange Walk ...	6,457	1,462	4·41
Stann Creek	6,062	840	7.21
Toledo	6,228	2,125	2·93
Cayo	7,050	1,830	3·85
Colony	54,744	8,598	6·36

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages and the infantile mortality for 1934, with comparative figures for the previous two years :—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*
1932 ...	1,879	3·54	1,073	2·02	363	0·65	194	10·32
1933 ...	1,942	3·61	1,117	2·07	462	0·85	242	12·46
1934 ...	1,945	3·55	971	1·77	450	0·82	200	10·28

No record is kept of emigration and immigration.

IV.—HEALTH.

Quarantinable Diseases.—During the latter part of 1933, modified smallpox, known as alastrim, appeared in the Colony. Fifty-one cases occurred in the town of Belize and an undetermined number in all the Districts of the Colony, except Toledo, in which District there have never been any cases.

Preventive measures were concentrated on vaccination of all contacts and quarantine of the patient in the dwelling-house. A considerable number of the general public have been vaccinated, but not sufficient to stamp out the disease.

The most prevalent diseases were as follows :—

(*a*) *Malaria*—accounting for 65·17 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. This disease is usually of the aestivo-autumnal type, and 576 cases were treated during the year in the six hospitals in the Colony.

This disease is responsible for 10·8 per cent. of the total deaths in the Colony.

(*b*) *Dysentery*—accounting for 5·43 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. Both the amoebic and bacillary types of the disease occur. Forty-eight cases of this disease were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony and there were two deaths.

(*c*) *Tuberculosis*—accounting for 5·65 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. The pulmonary form of the disease is most common. Ten new cases were notified during the year, and 50 cases were treated in the six hospitals of the Colony.

(*d*) *Venereal diseases* are very common in all the Districts and account for 14·37 per cent. of the total number of cases of infectious disease. Unfortunately, it is difficult to get patients to submit to orthodox treatment in the early stages, and to continue the treatment long enough to effect a permanent cure. There is a venereal disease ward of eight beds at the Belize Hospital, which is always full.

There are six hospitals in the Colony—one for each District. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains sixty-two beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals ranges from nineteen to six. In these hospitals treatment is afforded for medical, surgical and obstetrical cases. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3·00 a day for each person. Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals. Accommodation for twelve destitute sufferers from this disease is provided at the Belize Poor House.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in the charge of a Medical Officer under a Senior Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize Hospital there is one English-trained nurse controlling a subordinate native nursing staff. At each District hospital there is a competent native nursing staff, together with a competent native nurse who has received a course of training at the Belize hospital extending over a period of three years.

Owing to the absence of sufficient fall to the sea and to the lack of funds to carry out effectual mechanical drainage, few drains in the town of Belize act satisfactorily. The low-lying and swampy land in the northern portion of the town is now being reclaimed by filling it in and raising its level with sand and mud dredged from the adjoining sea. The Local Authority, Belize, also operates a dredger by which means mud taken from the harbour and canals is deposited at convenient places in the town and given to householders for the purpose of raising their low-lying and swampy lots. In the country districts, where there is a greater fall to the sea, efficient drains are provided and maintained by the Local Authorities.

There are six Local Authorities charged with the duty of looking after the sanitation of their respective Districts. There is also a Central Board of Health, having general powers of supervision over the several Local Authorities. In Belize there are five subordinate sanitary inspectors working under a trained Chief Sanitary Inspector, and in each of the remaining five Districts of the Colony there is also a subordinate sanitary inspector, working under the Medical Officer of the District.

The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in Belize necessitates the storage of rain water in vats, tanks and other receptacles. Regular and thorough inspections of these water receptacles by the sanitary inspectors must be maintained in order to detect and destroy the larvae of the mosquito and in particular the yellow fever carrying mosquito. Owing to the large number of vats destroyed by the hurricane, householders have had to fall back on barrels and other improvised receptacles in which to store their water, and this has resulted in an increase in the number of mosquitoes and the necessity for increased watchfulness on the part of the sanitary inspectors. Some of the vats are kept screened by their owners but the majority are kept stocked by the sanitary inspectors with larvivorous fish. Crab holes are being treated with cyanogas (a preparation of potassium cyanide) by the sanitary staff, with satisfactory results. All pools of stagnant water within the several towns are periodically oiled by the sanitary staff, a mixture of sawdust and crude oil being used for the purpose. Owing to financial stringency, operations against crabs and mosquitoes have been considerably limited during the past year.

The scavenging of the town of Belize and other towns in the Colony is performed by the Local Authority and under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. In Belize mule carts are employed by the Local Authority.

The majority of householders in Belize empty their utensils into the river, into the canals which run through the town, or into the sea.

Individual septic tanks are becoming popular among the better-class residents, but there are too many houses where owing to lack of water, funds, or of space, water-closets are an impossibility. This being so, the emptying of utensils into the canals, while it may be unsightly and disagreeable, is far more sanitary than storage in pails or pits within the house or in close proximity to other houses. In the outlying towns conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages methods of disposal of night-soil are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

In Belize the population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about 7 feet above the level of the ground, which is often low-lying, swampy and flooded. The work of the Town Board and the efforts of private individuals are gradually showing a marked improvement in this connexion; more especially is this so in the northern area—Freetown Area—where extensive filling-in has been done in connexion with the reclamation scheme, jointly financed by the Government and the Town Board. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping-room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing-room, kitchen or garage.

There were no building regulations prior to the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where, and in whatever manner best suited their convenience. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back-yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in, and free space around, each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections. In order to deal with existing slum areas and to rectify the errors of past years, legislation involving compensation to owners will be necessary. This latter cannot be undertaken in view of the present financial condition of the Colony and the municipal authorities.

Regulations have now been framed with a view to ensuring that, in future, houses will be erected in such a manner as to afford greater protection against hurricanes.

There are several residents in the town of Belize who own extensive house property which is rented out to tenants, but there are also very many working people who own or partly own the houses in which they live.

All premises in the towns are regularly inspected by the sanitary inspectors, and householders are made to keep their premises in as sanitary a condition as circumstances permit. Prosecution of offenders is not undertaken save as a last resort.

In the other towns of the Colony there is ample housing accommodation.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are :—

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, logwood, rosewood, banak, pine and other woods.

Other forest produce.—Chicle, alligator skins.

Agricultural produce.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts, copra and maize, sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulse and rice.

Live stock.—Swine, cattle and poultry.

Marine.—Tortoise-shell, shark products, lobsters, sponges, and fish of many varieties.

Forest produce, chiefly timber and chicle, form the greater proportion of the export trade in domestic produce, as shown in the table below.

	1923–1934 (average),		1933.		1934.	
	$	*Percentage of total exports.*	$	*Percentage of total exports.*	$	*Percentage of total exports.*
Forest produce	1,138,973	82·64	304,157	70·86	652,000	74·54
Agricultural produce ...	220,336	15·99	120,074	27·97	212,763	24·40
Marine and other produce	18,861	1·37	4,991	1·17	9,195	1·06

There was a considerable revival of trade during the year under review, the total values of domestic exports rising from $429,122 in 1933 to $873,958 in 1934, an increase of 103·1 per cent. The value of forest produce increased by 113·7%, but the total exports were only about half of the average annual exports during the 12-year period 1923-1934 inclusive, although agricultural exports have almost reached the average for the same period.

There was a slight revival of the mahogany trade, small contracts having been placed in the Colony by the American milling concerns which have absorbed the greater part of the log production in the past. It is probable that this renewed interest will be maintained, although it is doubtful whether the exports of mahogany will ever again reach the peak production of 1927, which followed the introduction of extraction by means of caterpillar tractors.

The local mahogany sawmill increased its output very considerably and the product has found a ready market, chiefly in the United Kingdom. This industry is increasing steadily at the expense of the exports of logs for manufacture elsewhere.

The following figures show the exports of mahogany logs and lumber in the last three years :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.
	1,000 S. ft.	*1,000 S. ft.*	*1,000 S. ft.*
Mahogany logs exported ...	644	109	2,202
Mahogany lumber exported ...	226	531	2,477
	870	640	4,679

The export of cedar was again noticeable particularly in the log form, a total of 34,371 s. ft. being exported in 1934, as against 21,071 s. ft. in 1933.

The export of chicle rose slightly from 726,782 lb. in 1933 to 787,526 lb. in 1934, though the price as shown in the Customs returns fell from an average of 29 c. per lb. to 25·3 c. per lb. The maintenance of exports at this level is due more to the availability of considerable stocks than to an increased demand from the manufacturers.

Logwood exports showed a slight decrease and there is no likelihood of any great improvement in the future so long as the exports from the Colony are in the log form and while the trade is controlled by a combine.

There was a slight renewal of interest in rosewood, though exports fell slightly. Banak maintained its place in the exports with a total of 75,560 s. ft. shipped to the United States of America. This wood, of value for cigar boxes and battery separators, is gradually finding a market, although the local contractors find difficulty in producing timber without defects. The wood is of medium hardness, quickly attacked by ambrosia or pinhole beetles and stain, but investigations are now being carried out on the seasoning of this wood after local conversion.

Favourable preliminary reports have been received on banak and Santa Maria, large-scale test shipments of which were made in 1933 to the Forest Products Research Laboratory in England, and during the year under review a further test shipment of pine and a smaller shipment of nargusta were made.

The favourable preliminary reports on the pine have been followed by a renewal of interest in the pine forests of the Colony and negotiations for concessions over the Crown pine forests were in progress at the end of the year.

The investigations into market possibilities of other forest produce were continued and progress was made in the assessment of stocks of promising timbers on Crown and other lands in the Colony.

Agriculture generally showed some improvement during the year 1934, especially with regard to the citrus and banana industries.

The number of people working and living on the land has increased and the greater consumption of home-grown products in place of imported foodstuffs is noticeable.

The coconut industry shows slight signs of reviving, and with careful cultivation, and if a local oil and soap factory can be established, the industry should continue to improve.

Exports of coconuts and copra for the past two years are as follows :—

	1933.		1934.	
	Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Coconuts	3,610,450	32,367	5,232,861	64,855
Copra	818,233	11,742	332,883	5,010

The citrus industry seems to be definitely on its feet and very satisfactory prices were got for the following: Marsh seedless grapefruit, Valencia oranges and King mandarine.

The British Honduras Citrus Association's new central packing shed at Stann Creek has been a great help to the planters, not only in the handling and shipping of the fruit, but also in the supplying of fertilizers, spraying materials, etc.

A "canning and juicing" plant has been established to deal with the "culled" fruit.

The majority of the fruit shipped was sent to London, the rest going to Canada and Bermuda.

Exports for the past three years were :—

	1932.	1933.	1934.	
	Quantity. *Cases.*		*Quantity* *Cases.*	*Value.* $
Grapefruit	2,663	5,094	13,400	33,569
Oranges	—	420	2,143	1.896
Tangerines and Mandarines ...	—	62	178	430
Miscellaneous (lemons, limes, etc.)	—	—	38	48

Further areas are being planted and it is expected that the crop will reach 20,000 cases during 1935, and by 1940 it is estimated that the average crop will be at least 100,000 cases per annum.

The planting of bananas is on the increase especially in the south of the Colony, and the exports have gone from 141,662 bunches in 1933 to 293,293 bunches in 1934, valued at $48,239 and $93,721, respectively.

Panama disease is still very serious, especially in the Stann Creek Valley and Monkey River districts, and has already spread to some of the other districts; however, certain parts of the Toledo District should remain free of Panama disease for a good many years provided great care is taken and the Government Regulations can be enforced.

The production of rum remained about the same, being confined to a few small sugar estates in the north of the Colony and one in the south.

Exports of rum were :—

1933.		1934.	
Gallons.	*Value.*	*Gallons.*	*Value.*
	$		$
10,715	10,715	10,146	10,146

The production of fresh vegetables continues to show improvement, especially with regard to cabbages which are being put into "cold storage" when plentiful.

Ground provisions are more plentiful and are finding a slightly better market but the preference for imported goods is still felt.

The production of corn and beans is increasing, especially since the Government erected the drying kiln and, with the arrangement to buy beans and corn at fixed prices from the producers, it is expected that this improvement will continue.

Sugar-cane production remains about the same and shows very little signs of improving unless the proposed scheme for a central factory in the north materializes.

Stock-raising is a little better, more local beef, pork, and mutton being consumed, and there has been a slight demand for draught animals.

The rice industry is still making headway and the milled product is selling much easier than in the past ; the mill is still working at a slight loss, but it is hoped that this will be overcome soon through the erection of a new and more economical rice mill in the south of the Colony.

A rice experiment station has been established in the Toledo District. The chief work at present is the improving of the local types of rice, trying out new varieties, the growing of a supply of improved seed for distribution, and the trying out and demonstration of improved methods of cultivation.

The amount of rice turned out by the mill for the past five years is as follows :—

1930-31	6,920 lb.
1931-32	12,135 ,,
1932-33	15,169 ,,
1933-34	102,206 ,,
1934-35	over 100 tons.

In April, the Colony was visited by Professor F. Hardy, Professor of Chemistry and Soil Science at the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture, Trinidad. He has since reported as to the suitability of the soils of the Stann Creek Valley and other portions of the Colony for the growing of bananas and other produce.

VII.—COMMERCE.

The slight improvement in the Colony's main industries—mahogany and chicle—noted during the latter part of 1933, was maintained during the year, while exports of bananas more than doubled.

Export of mahogany lumber to the United Kingdom continued to increase, while the bulk of the mahogany logs exported went to the American market.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $3,433,292, which was more by $704,085 than the total of $2,729,207 in 1933.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table :—

	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	4,925,330	4,435,358	2,301,838	1,687,112	1,912,375
Exports	4,534,963	2,911,066	1,447,484	1,042,095	1,520,917
Trade	9,460,293	7,346,424	3,749,322	2,729,207	3,433,292

The following table shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, the United States of America, and other foreign countries in 1934 compared with the trade of 1920 :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1934.	1920.	1934.	1920.	1934.
United Kingdom and British Possessions...	17·45	37·49	14·88	28·81	16·17	33·64
United States of America	60·44	35·81	78·18	61·48	69·31	47·70
Other Countries	22·11	26·70	6·94	9·71	14·52	18·66

Imports.

The imports in 1934 amounted to $1,912,375 as against $1,687,112 in 1933, an increase of $225,263.

The direction of the import trade during the years 1930–1934 is shown in the following table :—

	1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	687,324	13·95	745,024	16·80	424,339	18·43	418,511	24·81	466,733	24·40
Canada	1,188,837	24·14	1,289,767	29·08	704,543	30·61	326,433	19·35	200,610	10·49
Other British Possessions.	98,653	2·00	61,495	1·38	42,146	1·83	48,578	2·88	49,675	2·60
United States of America	1,730,051	35·13	1,459,006	32·90	815,093	35·41	633,900	37·57	684,776	35·81
Mexico...	563,983	11·45	357,599	8·06	92,297	4·01	78,978	4·67	284,344	14·87
Other Countries ...	656,582	13·33	522,467	11·78	223,420	9·70	180,712	10·72	226,237	11·83

Exports.

Exports amounted to $1,520,917 in 1934 or $478,822 more than the total of $1,042,095 in 1933.

The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1930–1934 :—

	1930.		1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	153,379	3·38	145,883	5·00	63,314	4·31	86,642	8·31	288,722	18·98
Canada	331,720	7·31	105,613	3·62	51,531	3·56	126,925	12·18	31,336	2·06
Other British Possessions.	1,125,000	24·81	1,312,152	45·07	671,519	46·39	354,276	33·99	118,200	7·77
United States of America.	2,708,674	59·73	1,204,660	41·38	528,489	36·51	377,742	36·25	953,131	61·48
Other Countries ...	216,190	4·77	142,758	4·93	133,631	9·23	96,510	9·27	129,528	9·71

Domestic exports amounted to $878,460, an increase of $444,350 over the 1933 total. Exports of mahogany logs and lumber amounted to 46·64 per cent. of the total.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the major exports for the last three years is given below.

		1934.	1933.	1932.
Mahogany logs	cubic feet	2,201,749	109,245	643,593
,, lumber	,, ,, ...	2,477,336	531,141	226,303
Chicle	lb.	787,526	726,782	279,703
Bananas ...	bunches	293,293	141,682	78,867

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 491,249, an increase of 11,721 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,420	88,543	89,963
United States of America ...	14	54,275	54,289
Other	2,652	101,010	103,662
Total ...	4,086	243,828	247,914

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,414	84,709	86,123
United States of America ...	11	52,107	52,118
Other	2,470	102,624	105,094
Total ...	3,895	239,440	243,335

The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1930	313,587	312,373	625,960
1931	327,271	315,958	643,229
1932	292,586	280,690	573,276
1933	242,288	237,240	479,528
1934	247,914	243,335	491,249

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes :—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).
(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

The average wage for agricultural labourers is $9·00 a month, including rations. Such labourers are engaged, principally, on sugar, coconut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are nine a day, with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are usually provided with free quarters (huts).

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows :—

Artisans from $1·00 to $1·50 a day ; carpenters, shipwrights, painters and masons, from $1·00 to $1·75 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging, for housemaids vary from $1·00 to $2·50 ; for cooks from $1·25 to $2·50.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows :—

Unskilled labourers, $0·50 to $1·00 a day.

Artisans, $1·00 to $1·50 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize.

The following comparison between the staple foodstuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded :—

		cents.		$			
1 lb. Flour	=	03	...	0·75	a day	=	25 lb.
1 ,, Rice	=	03	...	0·75	,,	=	25 ,,
1 ,, Beans	=	04	...	0·75	,,	=	18·75 lb.
1 ,, Mess Pork	=	12	...	0·75	,,	=	6·25 ,,
1 ,, Sugar	=	05	...	0·75	,,	=	15 lb.

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows :—

In Belize—

In hotels—$2·00 to $3·00 a day.

In boarding-houses—$2·00 a day ; $50·00 to $60·00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding-houses available except at Corozal, where there are a few hotels. The cost of living generally is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In consequence of a report made by Mr. B. H. Easter, M.B.E., Director of Education, Jamaica, the question of altering the educational system of the Colony is being considered. The present system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14, of 1926). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is sixty-five, fifty-three being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize, where a civilian is employed ; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years of age, and are applied towards the salaries of the teaching staff of the schools.

The grants for the year amounted to $72,513·40; $10·92 per head on an average daily attendance of 6,638.

The total cost to the Government, inclusive of the cost of administration, was $77,184·75, or $11·63 per head.

There are a few private schools in Belize that receive no aid.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was seventy-six, one hundred and fifty-five teachers and an average of fifty-eight pupil teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 8,151, of whom 4,334 were boys and 3,817 girls; the average attendance was 6,638. The total average roll in aided and unaided schools was 8,586 and the average attendance 7,020.

Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking conducted by the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the St. Hilda's College for Girls, conducted by the Anglican Church, the St. John's College for Boys conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, the St. Catherine's Academy, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the St. George's College, conducted jointly by the Anglican and Methodist Churches.

The average roll in these schools was 180, and the average attendance 163; but many pupils, of tender age, are not in the secondary department. The Cambridge University Local Examinations are taken.

These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at these examinations. The sum of $675·00 was paid on the 1934 results.

There is no provision for technical education; but mention might be made here of a Government industrial school in the Stann Creek Valley, where agriculture and farming are the principal features. There are no universities. Evening classes are conducted in a few of the schools, one being the St. John's College. No facilities are provided in the Colony for the study of art.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government poor-houses, one for men and the other for women.

Out-door relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $200·00.

In consequence of continued economic depression in the industries and trades, unemployment relief was given to the amount of $1,882·24. There was a vote of $5,000·00 for this purpose.

A society known as "The Women's Auxiliary", in connexion with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society, in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Methodist Women's League assist indigent persons. Besides, each Church has its poor-fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others.

There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members for sickness and death.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League continued to do good work during 1934. The matron of the public hospital has been the Superintendent of the Belize Clinic since 1933, and is assisted by several ladies of the community.

The League is supported by private contributions and a small Government subsidy.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the polo club, the golf club and Newtown club.

There are cricket, tennis, football and basket-ball competitions; baseball is also played.

There are several musical associations. A cinema theatre in Belize affords entertainment on five days of the week.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Internal transport in the Colony is mostly carried out by means of its many rivers (motor-boats, pitpans and doreys being the media used). Mule transport is the method of carriage between the Cayo District and the Peten District of Guatemala.

There are no all-weather roads in the Colony except a few short stretches round each town. There are, however, numerous tracks which are kept cleared by Government and along which motor-cars can sometimes run for short distances in the dry season; about 45 miles of road from Belize towards Cayo, and about 25 miles of road from Belize towards Orange Walk are partially constructed.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs 25 miles inland through very fertile country.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tramcar or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by motor-cars, and of goods by motor-trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service between Belize and New Orleans weekly via Puerto Barrios, about once every three weeks via Cuba and Jamaica and approximately once a month direct by ships of the United Fruit Company. Small schooners provide a somewhat irregular service between Belize and Tampa, Florida and New Orleans.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool call about once every four weeks and ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Line from Amsterdam, via the West Indies, call about once a month.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics by both steamers and sailing vessels.

A weekly air mail and passenger service northward through Mexico to Miami, Florida, and southward through the Central American Republics to Panama is provided by the planes of the Pan-American Airways, Inc.

There are 25 post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1934 was 470,829. Money and postal-order business amounting to $47,962 internal and $45,612 foreign was done in 1934.

There are 48 telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations.

Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica ; Guatemala City and Quezaltenango, Guatemala ; and New Orleans, United States of America.

During the year 1934 the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 5,406, and the number received was 5,273.

The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports or Press messages.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue. There is a Government Savings Bank with deposits totalling $253,175 at the end of the year.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43, respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5 and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners, the gold and other securities by which it is secured being, for the time being, in the custody of the Royal Bank of Canada.

On the 21st of April, 1933, an Ordinance was assented to providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, the silver coins of the Colony shall be legal tender in the Colony for all purposes and to any amount. A suspending clause provides for the bringing into operation of the Ordinance, by Proclamation, on such day as the Governor shall direct and appoint.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the police, who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to shortage of funds there was little expenditure on public works other than on ordinary maintenance.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed "District Courts") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences (excluding petty misdemeanours and petty offences) before the courts of the Colony during the year :—

Persons charged by police	300	
,, ,, otherwise	7	
		307
Convicted summarily	201	
Acquitted summarily	34	
Committed to Supreme Court	72	
		307
Convicted by Supreme Court	37	
Acquitted	11	
Nolle prosequi	24	
		72

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of 2 officers and 118 other ranks. There are 24 stations in the Colony, 18 of which are in telephonic communication.

The police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulation and signals. Applicants for motor drivers' licences are examined by the police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward. The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells each of approximately 700 cubic feet. In each of the five Districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lock-ups. That of the Corozal District is the largest and is surrounded by concrete walls. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize prison. The District prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under sixteen who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. There is no probation system in force at present, but an Ordinance to provide for such a system has been enacted recently and will be brought into operation in due course. The general health of the prisoners at the Belize prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-four Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the under-mentioned are the more important :—

No. 11, of 1934—*The Bahamas and Leeward Islands Light Dues Ordinance*, levying certain light dues in respect of ships which pass and derive benefit from certain lighthouses and buoys in the Bahamas and the Leeward Islands.

No. 24, of 1934—*The Importation of Textiles (Quotas) Ordinance*, regulating the importation of textiles.

No. 31, of 1934—*The Probation of Offenders Ordinance*, providing for the probation of offenders.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Colony's financial year was changed to coincide with the calendar year. As the year 1933–34 ended on 31st March, 1934, the financial year 1934 comprised nine months only—April to December.

The revenue of the Colony (including Colonial Development Fund grants) for the nine months ending 31st December, 1934, was

$627,501·11, including a sum of $99,600 (£20,000) received as a loan grant-in-aid of administration from the United Kingdom Exchequer.

The actual revenue for the same period of the preceding year was $838,725·50, including $103,600 (£20,000) received as loan grant-in-aid from the United Kingdom Exchequer. This revenue included $260,250·28 from the realization of investments, the transfer of the Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund and the appreciation of investments. If these latter items and the grants-in-aid are left out of account, the revenue for April to December, 1934, was $53,025·89 more than during the corresponding period in 1933.

The total expenditure for the nine months ending 31st December, 1934, was $816,811·44, an excess of $16,134·44 over the estimate and an increase of $114,101·94 on the actual expenditure for the corresponding period of 1933.

The total of the revenue and expenditure for the last six years are given below :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1929–30	1,036,068	1,023,603
1930–31	1,160,445	1,087,047
1931–32	875,045	1,035,600
1932–33	893,716*	940,985
1933–34	1,056,244†	958,233
1934	627,501‡	816,811

Public Debt.

At the close of the year the funded public debt stood at $2,982,042·30. In addition, the total outstanding on advance account in connexion with loan works amounted to $155,376·19. The total of the accumulated sinking funds towards redemption of the funded debt was $355,034·75.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets, which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and company loans and cash in hand, amounted at 31st December, 1934, to a total of $724,849·78. The main liabilities were :—

Savings Bank, $260,024·77, advances from Joint Colonial Fund, $308,750, and Loan Funds (1927 and 1928), $62,438·18.

---

* This total includes loan-in-aid $68,600, receipts from German Reparations $26,056, and grant in connexion with 1931 Hurricane $18,950.

† Including $260,250 for investments realized, appreciation of investments and transfer of Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund and $103,600 loan-in-aid of administration.

‡ Including $99,600 loan-in-aid of administration.

There is a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with a balance of $11,698·82. The difference is made up of sundry deposits, etc.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation are :—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duty.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income-tax.
5. Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rents.

Customs Import Duties are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 10 per cent. and 20 per cent., under the British preferential and general tariffs, respectively. From 22nd December, 1931, a surtax of 25 per cent. was imposed on almost all the *ad valorem* duties except articles of food, and certain increases were made on some of the specific duties. A package tax at the rate of 5 cents per package was also introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported.

Excise Duty at the rate of $3·00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and entered for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 1½ cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of a maximum of 45 cents an acre, all of which above 10 cents is earmarked for improvements and road construction; but refunds are made on improved land.

The *Income-tax* rate is low, the percentage of tax on chargeable incomes up to $30,000 being 7·3 per cent. only.

Fines of Courts are casual; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property the rate is 20 cents per $100.

Warehouse Rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years :—

	1930–31.	1931–32.	1932–33.	1933–34.	1934.
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import, and Export Duties.	711,745	546,785	425,858	376,227	265,103
Excise Duties	84,561	60,873	40,706	34,816	35,343
Land Tax	45,973	36,807	30,195	27,431	13,607
Income-tax	37,133	29,259	25,162	10,539	6,515
Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.	1,669	1,413	1,317	1,034	130
Fines of Courts	6,349	5,014	2,901	2,126	2,517
Estate Duty	944	1,429	2,172	2,874	4,658
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties	19,272	12,121	9,921	8,251	4,877
Warehouse Rents	25,155	19,040	20,798	18,033	8,869

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the year (1st April to 31st December, 1934) 97 applications for leases aggregating 1,782 acres of agricultural land, and 61 applications for leases of 79 town and village lots, were approved and taken up by lessees. One hundred and seventy-six acres of agricultural land were sold to eight applicants for $166·00 and one village lot was sold to one applicant for $35·00. Twenty-seven titles for 29 town and village lots, and 35 titles for 830 acres of agricultural land, were issued.

The opening of the boundary line between the Colony and Guatemala was completed during the year.

General.

On 23rd May, Sir H. B. Kittermaster, K.B.E., C.M.G., proceeded on leave of absence prior to his assumption of duties as Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Protectorate of Nyasaland.

During the period 23rd May to 1st November the Government was administered by Mr. F. W. Brunton, C.B.E., Acting Colonial Secretary, in pursuance of His Majesty's Dormant Commission dated 20th March, 1934.

On the 2nd November, Mr. A. C. M. Burns, C.M.G., arrived in the Colony and assumed the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, in pursuance of His Majesty's Commission dated 7th September, 1934.

In order to assist the Budget for 1934 the Colony received from the United Kingdom Exchequer a sum of £20,000 as a loan grant-in-aid of administration.

The under-mentioned grants from the Colonial Development Fund were sanctioned during the year :—

	£
For the establishment of an agricultural station at Corozal...	1,900
For a drying kiln at Belize	1,232
	£3,132

APPENDIX.

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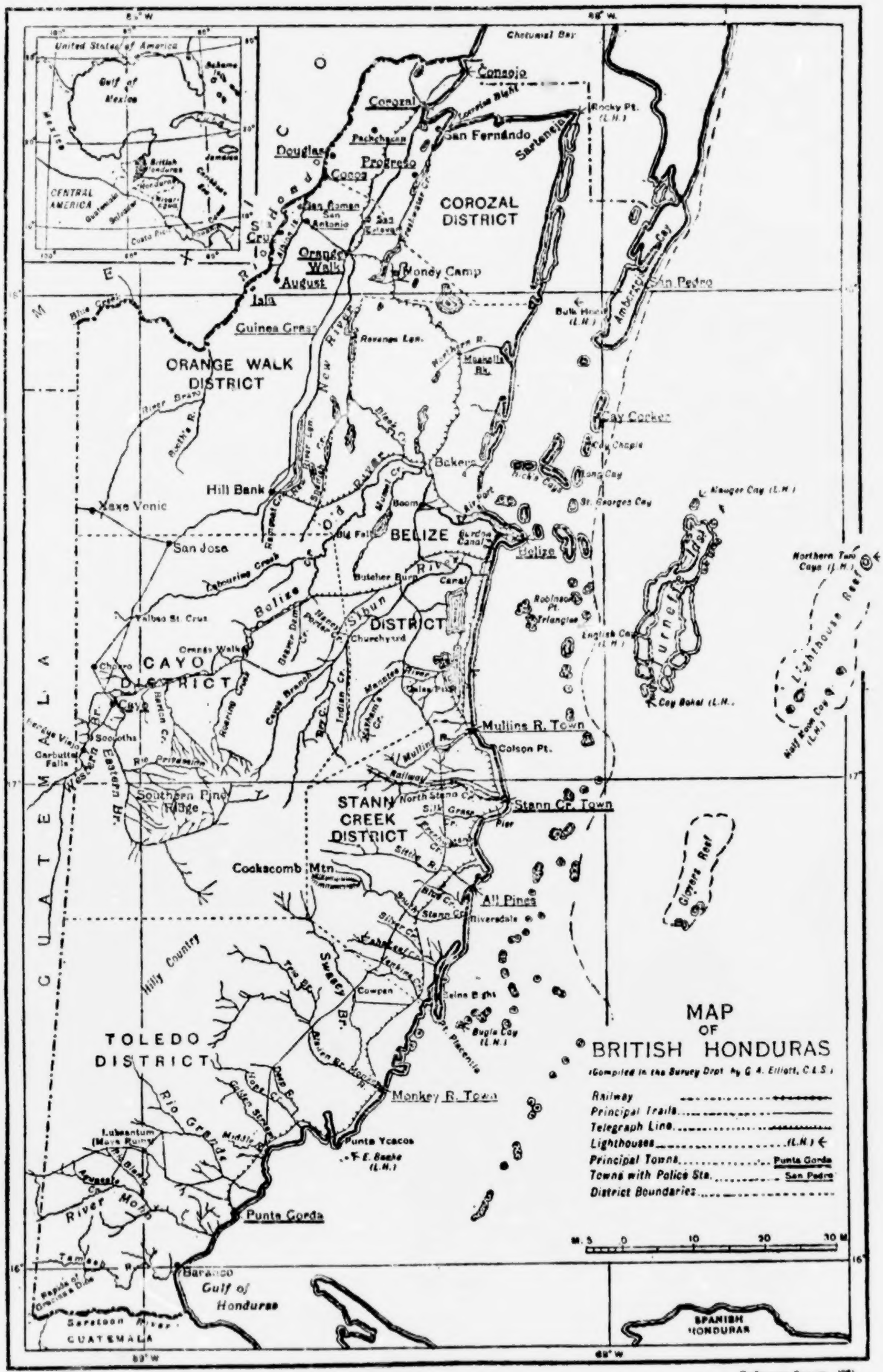
MAP
OF
BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept by G. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M.
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
Mexico
CENTRAL AMERICA
British Honduras
Caribbean Sea
Jamaica
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
San Fernando
Douglas
Progreso
Sarteneja
COROZAL DISTRICT
San Roman
San Antonio
Orange Walk
August
Yalbac
Guinea Grass
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
New River
Rio Hondo
MEXICO
Ambergris Cay
San Pedro
Bulk Head (L.H.)
Cay Corker
Cay Chapel
Long Cay
St. Georges Cay
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Lighthouse Reef
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Turneffe Isles
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
English Cay (L.H.)
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Old River
Belize River
Sibun River
Bakers
BELIZE DISTRICT
Belize
Churchyard
CAYO DISTRICT
Cayo
Benque Viejo
Socoths
Carbutt Falls
Western Br.
Eastern Br.
Rio Privassion
Southern Pine Ridge
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
Stann Cr. Town
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Cockscomb Mtn.
All Pines
Riversdale
Glovers Reef
Hilly Country
Swasey Br.
Cowpen
Seine Bight
Bugle Cay (L.H.)
Pt. Placentia
TOLEDO DISTRICT
Monkey R. Town
Rio Grande
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
Punta Ycacos
E. Snake (L.H.)
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Temash R.
Barranco
Gulf of Honduras
Sarstoon River
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS
89° W
88° W
18°
17°
16°

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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF BRITISH HONDURAS, 1935

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The Colony is bounded on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the north and north-west by Mexico, and on the west and south-west by Guatemala. The frontier with Mexico follows the course of the River Hondo; that with Guatemala follows the course of the River Sarstoon on the south, continuing by a line drawn from the Gracias a Dios Falls, on the River Sarstoon, to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, and from Garbutt's Falls due north to the Mexican frontier. The greatest length of the Colony is about 174 miles and the greatest width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

A number of "cays" and reefs lie off the mainland of the Colony at varying distances from the coast, in an almost continuous line from the point of the Yucatan peninsula to the southern boundary of the Colony. The largest of these are Ambergris Cay and Cay Caulker, while the Turneffe group of cays covers a large area.

Near the coast the land is low and swampy, but gradually rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is low-lying, but further south the country is hilly and even mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The Colony is well watered, and its numerous rivers provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries. Europeans leading a normal life and taking ordinary precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The average rainfall at Belize was 83·20 inches for the last five years.

The extremes of temperature and the rainfall at Belize for the last ten years were as follows :—

	Extremes of temperature.				*Year's Rainfall.*
		°F.		°F.	*inches.*
1935	4th September ...	91	6th February ...	51	64·16
1934	16th April ...	93	13th December ...	56	91·21
1933	5th May ...	91·5	1st January ...	61·5	73·03
1932	15th September ...	93	21st November ...	59	67·36
1931	12th May ...	89	22nd January ...	51	120·23
1930	27th May, 7th September ...	89	24th December ...	59	84·73
1929	28th September ...	90	30th January ...	57	113·57
1928	18th July ...	88·5	26th December ...	57	52·29
1927	18th August ...	88	11th January ...	56·5	68·61
1926	29th July ...	88	20th February ...	54	60·05

History.

It is thought that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. The country first became known to Englishmen about 1638. It is probable that settlers from Jamaica visited the country and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves in what is now British Honduras. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them and, as England was frequently at war with Spain in those days, such conflicts were natural. Even after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, there was fighting between the subjects of the King of England and those of the King of Spain in Central America. The Spaniards made frequent attempts to expel the Englishmen and their slaves, but in 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time. The population of the British settlement in and near Belize, the chief town, included at this date 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671, the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having "increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713, there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717, the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as "Spanish Lookout," on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754, another attempt was made by the Spaniards and defeated "principally by slaves," at Labouring Creek. In 1779, St. George's Cay was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Cay, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally defeated on the 10th of September, 1798, at St. George's Cay, after trying for a century and a-half to expel the British.

In the year 1849 the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many Spaniards were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of British Honduras. From the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan made repeated raids into the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a "constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., "legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people". This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as "Burnaby's Laws."

In 1786, a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791 to 1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870, the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. Since 1913 the Council has contained six official and seven unofficial members. On the 31st of October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on the 10th of September, 1909.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided, also a casting vote. Under Ordinance No. 17 of 1932, the Governor or presiding member may, either before or after the votes of the members have been taken, "declare the passing of any Bill or any clause of it or any amendment to any such Bill or of any resolution or vote to be necessary in the interest of public order, public faith, or other first essentials of good government including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire, or to be necessary to secure within the scope of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote as aforesaid the control of finance of the Colony by His Majesty's Government for the period during which the Colony receives financial assistance from His Majesty's Exchequer." In this case "only the votes of the official members shall be taken into consideration and any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote shall be deemed to have been passed by the Council if a majority of the votes of such official members are recorded in favour of any such Bill, clause, amendment, resolution, or vote".

In 1935 an Ordinance was passed providing for a new form of Legislative Council, consisting of the Governor and five official members, two unofficials nominated by the Governor, and five unofficials elected for four constituencies.

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other person as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the close of the year under review there was one unofficial member.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk

District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District, and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. Except in the case of the Belize District, he is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, the naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elected Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Cay, Cay Caulker, and Ambergris Cay.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1935 was estimated at 55,448, and consisted of 27,411 males and 28,037 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by Caribs, while in the Toledo District Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemaltecans, Mexicans, and a few Syrians. In the capital the "Creoles" (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in square miles.*	*Persons per square mile.*
Belize	21,309	1,623	13.13
Corozal	8,095	718	11·27
Orange Walk ...	6.487	1,462	4·44
Stann Creek	6.151	840	7.32
Toledo	6,223	2,125	2·93
Cayo	7,183	1,830	3·91
Colony	55,448	8,598	6·45

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages and the infantile mortality for 1935, with comparative figures for the previous two years :—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*	*Number.*	*Per cent.*
1933 ...	1,942	3·61	1,117	2·07	462	0·85	242	12·46
1934 ...	1,945	3·55	971	1·77	450	0·82	200	10·28
1935 ...	2,081	3·75	1,377	2·48	370	0·67	354	17·01

No record is kept of emigration and immigration.

IV.—HEALTH.

Quarantinable diseases.—In January of 1935, smallpox (Alastrim) appeared at Progresso in the Corozal District. There were 59 cases. Smallpox also became prevalent in Belize. Nineteen cases were reported. An extensive vaccination campaign was carried out, and after August no further cases were notified.

Legislation making vaccination compulsory in the event of smallpox was enacted.

The following diseases were prevalent :—

(*a*) *Measles and whooping-cough.*—An extensive concurrent epidemic of these diseases swept the Colony during the year. Complications were frequent, and account for an increased child death rate, especially among the poor and undernourished children.

(*b*) *Malaria.*—This disease is extensive in the Colony. Energetic anti-malaria measures are required to reduce its prevalence.

(*c*) *Dysentery.*—Both amoebic and bacillary forms occur.

(*d*) *Tuberculosis.*—Is prevalent, but accurate statistics are not available. Few patients seek early treatment, and prefer to conceal this disease, if possible.

(*e*) *Venereal diseases.*—These diseases are very prevalent in the Colony. Treatment, if sought at all, is sought for the acute manifestations of these diseases. Once the acute symptoms have been relieved, the patient is satisfied. Late lesions are very common. The Venereal Disease Ward in Belize Hospital is always full. A weekly venereal disease clinic for out-patients has been established.

There are six hospitals in the Colony—one for each District. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains sixty-two beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals ranges from nineteen to six. In these hospitals treatment is afforded for medical, surgical and obstetrical cases. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3·00 a day for each person. Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals. Accommodation for twelve destitute sufferers from this disease is provided at the Belize Poor House.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in the charge of a Medical Officer under a Senior Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize Hospital there is one English-trained Matron controlling a subordinate native nursing staff. At each District hospital there is a competent native nursing staff, together with a competent native nurse who has received a course of training at the Belize hospital extending over a period of three years.

Owing to the absence of sufficient fall to the sea and to the lack of funds to carry out effectual mechanical drainage, few drains in the town of Belize act satisfactorily. The low-lying and swampy land in the northern portion of the town is now being reclaimed by filling it in and raising its level with sand and mud dredged from the adjoining sea. The Local Authority, Belize, also operates a dredger by which means mud taken from the harbour and canals is deposited at convenient places in the town and given to householders for the purpose of raising their low-lying and swampy lots. In the country districts, where there is a greater fall to the sea, efficient drains are provided and maintained by the Local Authorities.

There are six Local Authorities charged with the duty of looking after the sanitation of their respective Districts. There is also a Central Board of Health, having general powers of supervision over the several Local Authorities. In Belize there are five sanitary inspectors, and in each of the remaining five Districts of the Colony, there is also a subordinate sanitary inspector, working under the District Board.

The absence of any pipe-borne water supply in Belize necessitates the storage of rain water in vats, tanks and other receptacles. Regular and thorough inspections of these water receptacles by the sanitary inspectors must be maintained in order to detect and destroy the larvae of the mosquito and in particular the yellow fever carrying mosquito. Owing to the large number of vats destroyed by the hurricane, householders have had to fall back on barrels and other improvised receptacles in which to store their water, and this has resulted in an increase in the number of mosquitoes and the necessity for increased watchfulness on the part of the sanitary inspectors. Some of the vats are kept screened by their owners but the majority are kept stocked by the sanitary inspectors with larvivorous fish. Crab holes are being treated with cyanogas (a preparation of potassium cyanide) by the sanitary staff, with satisfactory results. All pools of stagnant water within the several towns are periodically oiled by the sanitary staff, a mixture of sawdust and crude oil being used for the purpose. Owing to financial stringency, operations against crabs and mosquitoes have been considerably limited during the past year.

During the months of July, August, and September, the mosquito pest was particularly bad. Mosquitoes appeared in clouds, and their activities made life very uncomfortable.

The scavenging of the town of Belize and other towns in the Colony is performed by the Local Authority and under the direction of the sanitary inspectors. In Belize mule carts are employed by the Local Authority.

The majority of householders in Belize empty their utensils into the river, into the canals which run through the town, or into the sea.

Individual septic tanks are becoming popular among the better-class residents, but there are too many houses where owing to lack of water, funds, or of space, water-closets are an impossibility. This being so, the emptying of utensils into the canals, while it may be unsightly and disagreeable, is far more sanitary than storage in pails or pits within the house or in close proximity to other houses. In the outlying towns conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages methods of disposal of night-soil are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

In Belize the population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often low-lying, swampy and flooded. The work of the Town Board and the efforts of private individuals are gradually showing a marked improvement in this connexion ; more especially is this so in the northern area—Freetown Area—where extensive filling-in has been done in connexion with the reclamation scheme, jointly financed by the Government and the Town Board. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping-room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing-room, kitchen or garage.

There were no building regulations before the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where, and in whatever manner they liked. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back-yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in, and free space around, each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections. In order to deal with dilapidated and ruinous buildings, Ordinance No. 6 of 1935 was enacted.

The building regulations require further revision in order to improve housing conditions in Belize.

There are several residents in the town of Belize who own extensive house property which is rented out to tenants, but there are also very many working people who own or partly own the houses in which they live.

All premises in the towns are regularly inspected by the sanitary inspectors, and householders are made to keep their premises in as sanitary a condition as circumstances permit. Prosecution of offenders is not undertaken save as a last resort.

In the other towns of the Colony there is ample housing accommodation.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are :—

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, logwood, rosewood, banak, pine and other woods.

Other forest produce.—Chicle, alligator skins.

Agricultural produce.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts, copra and maize, sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulses and rice.

Live stock.—Swine, cattle and poultry.

Marine.—Tortoise-shell, shark products, lobsters, sponges, and fish of many varieties.

Forest produce, chiefly timber and chicle, form the greater proportion of the export trade in domestic produce, as shown in the table below.

	1926–1935 (average).		1934.		1935.	
	$	*Percentage of total exports.*	$	*Percentage of total exports.*	$	*Percentage of total exports.*
Forest produce	1,064.289	83	652,000	74·54	648,848	70·17
Agricultural produce ...	205,064	16	212,763	24·40	268,285	29·01
Marine and other produce	13,810	1	9,195	1·06	7,583	0·82

The renewed interest in mahogany continued as anticipated, and contracts for about five million feet were placed in the Colony by the American buying and milling concerns. The demand was, however, qualified in that only first-class wood of large size was required. Presumably this class of wood is required to readjust the proportions of the grades which were reduced in the recent depression period in the high grade only. There has therefore been a considerable waste of good though small wood which has been left to rot in the bush as unsaleable.

Excellent reports from the United Kingdom have been received on the sawing, grading and general quality of the lumber produced by the Belize mahogany sawmill, and a ready market has been found for all grades.

The following figures show the exports of mahogany and cedar logs and lumber in the last three years :—

	1933.	1934.	1935.
	1,000 s. ft.	*1,000 s. ft.*	*1,000 s. ft.*
Mahogany logs exported ...	109	2,202	1,913
Mahogany lumber exported	531	2,477	4,242
Cedar logs exported... ...	8	23	196
Cedar lumber exported ...	14	11	52

The price of chicle rose during the year and the exports were maintained.

Logwood is ceasing to be of any importance in the trade of the Colony, and no improvement is anticipated. Rosewood, following the trial shipments made by the Forest Trust, showed a revival of interest chiefly in the United Kingdom and France, and there was a local revival in the cutting of northern rosewood. Banak also held its place in the export market.

The Forest Products Research Laboratories in England reported during the year on yemeri and banak. There does not appear to be any promise for yemeri in the United Kingdom market, as the high costs of extraction prevent its use in the low-grade, keenly competitive classes of manufacture where it would find its chief uses. The possibilities for banak are more promising. Although it appears to be suitable for general use as a mahogany substitute, it is possible that it will find a more ready market as a substitute for cedar in the manufacture of cigar boxes, and Port Orford cedar for battery separators.

The report on pine has not yet been submitted and no concession over the Crown pine forests has yet been approved.

The resources survey, with particular reference to pine and the more promising hardwoods, was continued.

Agriculture.

The prolonged and somewhat severe drought particularly over the central and northern section of the Colony caused a set back to the production of the main crops, especially rice and maize. This was aggravated later in the year in some sections by floods. The Department of Agriculture, with the financial assistance of the Agricultural Society, distributed seed of maize, rice and beans to planters in the areas most affected by the drought.

There continues to be a steady increase in the number of persons taking up planting for a living and home grown foodstuffs are in greater demand.

An effort is being made by a committee specially appointed for the purpose to formulate a policy for Land Settlement in various parts of the Colony. There is every indication of at least one agricultural settlement being started early in 1936. During the year, certain agricultural reserves were created and other lands examined for their suitability for agricultural development.

The institution of a buying scheme for maize and pulses by the Board of Agriculture has proved very popular. Planters are now assured of a guaranteed minimum price for these products and thereby they are saved a considerable amount of difficulty in disposing of these articles. The erection of two grain drying plants in Belize and Punta Gorda with bulk storage facilities has lessened appreciably the problem of storing grains and pulses. The experiment in cold storage of cabbages was not a success and the idea of future work in this line has been abandoned.

During the year an up-to-date rice mill, with a capacity of about 600 lb. of milled rice per hour, was erected in Punta Gorda. The establishment of this mill should encourage considerably the production of rice in the southern portions of the Colony. During the year, however, two factors in particular caused a reduction in the rice crop in the neighbourhood of the mill, one being adverse climatic conditions and the other the fact that banana growing became increasingly popular at the expense of rice production. In other areas the crop suffered considerably from adverse weather conditions.

Banana production increased appreciably during the year. The greatest activity in this respect took place in the Toledo District. Panama disease, nevertheless, is still prevalent and will always be a serious factor. The export of plantains showed a considerable decrease, as shown below :—

	1933.		1934.		1935.	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		$		$		$
Bananas, bunches ...	141,662	48,239	293,293	93,721	356,056	125,274
Plantains, number ...	203,000	1,599	429,250	2,408	162,560	1,007

The export of coconuts improved somewhat but exports of copra declined considerably owing to the higher price obtainable for coconuts. A slight rise in prices of coconuts took place due in part to increased competition among local buyers. The following table gives the actual figures of exports :—

	1933.		1934.		1935.	
	Quantity.	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*
		$		$		$
Coconuts No.	3,610,450	32.367	5,232,861	64,855	6,589,320	96,515
Copra lb.	818,233	11,742	332.883	5,010	5,230	52

The citrus industry, particularly in Stann Creek, continues to increase in importance. In spite of somewhat unfavourable climatic conditions the crop shows every sign of being considerably larger than last year, but later, with the result that more than half the fruit set during the year will be fit for reaping from March, 1936 onwards. The estimate for the total crop is about 20,000 cases of fresh fruit plus the equivalent of 10,000 cases to be shipped as canned or juiced fruit. Grapefruit makes up the bulk of this estimate of production. A trial shipment to Canada of lemons—Villa Franca and Genoa—was made with encouraging results. A larger and more modern cannery was purchased by the Citrus Association and is to be installed early in 1936. New plantings are being made in the Corozal area and in a few years Corozal will be an important citrus producing district. Prices have on the whole been consistently good but towards the end of the year a severe drop was experienced. The estimated area under citrus (August, 1935), grown primarily for export is approximately 1,000 acres, of which grapefruit accounts for over 75 per cent. of the total area.

The following table shows the exports during the last three years :–

	1933.		1934.		1935.	
	Cases.	*Value.*	*Cwts.*	*Value.*	*Cwts.*	*Value.*
		$		$		$
Grapefruit … …	5,094	13,462	13.400	33,569	15,450	32.280
Oranges … …	420	967	2,143	1.896	1,595	1.720
Tangerines and Mandarines	62	154	197	511	117	219
Miscellaneous :						
(Limes, Lemons, etc.)	—	—	13	44	—	—
Grapefruit, Canned lb.	—	—	—	—	39,104	1,999
Grapefruit Juice lb. …	—	—	—	—	4,706	156

The Corozal Sugar Factory Company has purchased machinery for a 2,000 ton factory and at the time of writing the factory is in process of being erected. There is every possibility of a start being made in the manufacture of sugar before the middle of 1936. As the result of this, considerable activity on the part of sugar planters is being shown and the demand for planting material has been very great.

The production of maize and pulses shows considerable improvement but climatic conditions caused much hardship. The variety of vegetables and ground provisions reaching the town markets is improving and they are in greater demand.

Stock raising remains the same as last year. A few persons are taking an interest in goat breeding for milk purposes. Bee-keeping appears to be attracting attention.

The Department of Agriculture has opened an Experiment Farm on the outskirts of Corozal and during the year a new officer has been appointed who will be in charge of the Farm and the northern districts generally.

VII.—COMMERCE.

Export of mahogany lumber to the United Kingdom continued to increase, while the bulk of the mahogany logs exported went to the American market. In spite of a severe drought in the earlier part of the year, exports of chicle and bananas showed an improvement.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $4,359,608, which was more by $926,316 than the total of $3,433,292 in 1934.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table :—

	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	4,435,358	2,301,838	1,687,112	1,912,375	2,675,025
Exports	2,911,066	1,447,484	1,042,095	1,520,917	1,684,583
Trade	7,346,424	3,749,322	2,729,207	3,433,292	4,359,608

The following table shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, and the United States of America and other foreign countries in 1935 compared with the trade of 1920 :—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1935.	1920.	1935.	1920.	1935.
United Kingdom and British Possessions	17·45	41·12	14·88	25·12	16·17	34·93
United States of America	60·44	27·81	78·18	62·84	69·31	41·35
Other Countries ...	22·11	31·07	6·94	12·04	14·52	23·72

Imports.

The imports in 1935 amounted to $2,675,025 as against $1,912,375 in 1934, an increase of $762,650.

The direction of the import trade during the years 1931–1935 is shown in the following table :—

	1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	745,024	16·80	424,339	18·43	418,511	24·81	466,733	24·40	731,486	27·34
Canada	1,289,767	29·08	704,543	30·61	326,433	19·35	200,610	10·49	263,729	9·85
Other British Possessions	61,459	1·38	42,146	1·83	48,578	2·88	49,675	2·60	104,840	3·92
United States of America	1,495,006	32·96	815,093	35·41	633,900	37·57	684,776	35·81	744,085	27·81
Mexico...	357,599	8·06	92,297	4·01	78,978	4·67	284,344	14·87	528,529	19·85
Other Countries ...	522,467	11·78	223,420	9·70	180,712	10·72	226,237	11·83	302,356	11·23

Exports.

Exports amounted to $1,684,583 in 1935 or $163,666 more than the total of $1,520,917 in 1934.

The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1931–1935 :—

	1931.		1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.	
	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*	$	*Per cent.*
United Kingdom ...	145,883	5·00	63 314	4·31	86,642	8·31	288,722	18·98	317,510	18·84
Canada	105,613	3·62	51,531	3·56	126.925	12·18	31,336	2·06	50,450	2·99
Other British Possessions	1,312,152	45·07	671,519	46·39	354,276	33·99	118,200	7·77	54,911	3·25
United States of America	1,204,660	41·38	528,489	36·51	377,742	36·25	953,131	61·48	1,058,659	62·84
Other Countries ...	142,758	4·93	133,631	9·23	96,510	9·27	129,528	9·71	203,053	12·08

Domestic exports amounted to $961,729, an increase of $83,269 over the 1934 total. Exports of mahogany logs and lumber amounted to 44·90 per cent. of the total.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the major exports for the last three years is given below.

			1935.	1934.	1933.
Mahogany logs	cubic feet	...	159,499	183,479	9.104
Mahogany lumber	,,	...	353,565	206.445	44.262
Chicle	lb.	...	735.240	787.526	726.782
Bananas	bunches	...	356,056	293,293	141.682

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 406,176, a decrease of 85,073 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.		*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	... ...	1,762	79,288	81,050
United States of America	...	—	39,782	39,782
Other	... ...	2,279	79,570	81,849
Total	...	4,041	198,640	202,681

CLEARED.

Nationality.		*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	... ...	1,730	83,927	85,657
United States of America	...	—	40,580	40,580
Other	... ...	1,909	75,349	77,258
Total	...	3,639	199,856	203,495

The total tonnage during the last five years was :—

Year.		*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1931	... ...	327,271	315,958	643,229
1932	... ...	292,586	280,690	573,276
1933	... ...	242,288	237,240	479,528
1934	... ...	247,914	243,335	491,249
1935	... ...	202,681	203,495	406,176

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes :—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).
(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

The average wage for agricultural labourers is $9·00 a month, including rations. Such labourers are engaged, principally, on sugar, coconut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are nine a day, with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are usually provided with free quarters (huts).

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows :—

Artisans from $1·00 to $1·50 a day ; carpenters, shipwrights, painters and masons, from $1·00 to $2·00 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging, for housemaids vary from $1·00 to $2·50 ; for cooks from $1·25 to $2·50.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows :—

Unskilled labourers, $0·75 to $1·00 a day.
Artisans, $1·00 to $1·50 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize.

The following comparison between the staple foodstuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded :—

		cents.		$			
1 lb. Flour	=	03	... ...	0·75	a day	=	25 lb.
1 ,, Rice	=	03	... ...	0·75	,,	=	25 ,,
1 ,, Beans	=	04	... ...	0·75	,,	=	18·75 lb.
1 ,, Mess Pork	=	12	... ...	0·75	,,	=	6·25 ,,
1 ,, Sugar	=	05	... ...	0·75	,,	=	15 lb.

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows :—

In Belize—

In hotels—$2·00 to $3·00 a day.

In boarding-houses—$2·00 a day ; $50·00 to $60·00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding-houses available except at Corozal, where there are a few hotels. The cost of living generally is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In consequence of a report made by Mr. B. H. Easter, M.B.E., Director of Education, Jamaica, the educational system of the Colony is being altered. The system of education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926 as amended by No. 38 of 1935). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is sixty-five, fifty-three being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize, where a civilian is employed ; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years of age, and are applied towards the salaries of the teaching staff of the schools, and the provision and upkeep of buildings and equipment.

The grants for the year amounted to $64,989·14; $10·01 per head on an average monthly attendance of 6,488.

The total cost to the Government, inclusive of the cost of administration, was $70,171·16, or $10·81 per head.

There are a few private schools in Belize that receive no aid.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was seventy-six; one hundred and sixty-three teachers and an average of fifty-nine pupil teachers were employed; the average enrolment at all schools was 8,433, of whom 4,422 were boys and 4,011 girls; the average attendance was 6,488. The total average roll in aided and unaided schools was 9,037 and the average attendance 7,013.

Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking conducted by the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the St. Hilda's College for Girls, conducted by the Anglican Church, the St. John's College for Boys conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, the St. Catherine's Academy, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the St. George's College, conducted jointly by the Anglican and Methodist Churches.

The average roll in these schools was 226, and the average attendance 204; but many pupils, of tender age, are not in the secondary department. The Cambridge University Local Examinations are taken.

These schools receive no aid from the Government except a capitation grant in respect of successful students at these examinations. The sum of $763·75 was paid on the 1935 results.

There is no provision for technical education; but mention might be made here of a Government industrial school in the Stann Creek Valley, where agriculture and farming are the principal features. There are no universities. Evening classes are conducted in a few of the schools, one being the St. John's College. No facilities are provided in the Colony for the study of art.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government poor-houses, one for men and the other for women.

Out-door relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $200·00.

In consequence of continued economic depression in the industries and trades, unemployment relief was given to the amount of $981·48. There was a vote of $4,500·00 for this purpose.

A society known as "The Women's Auxiliary", in connection with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society, in connection with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Methodist

Women's League assist indigent persons. Besides, each Church has its poor-fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others.

There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members for sickness and death.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League continued to do good work during 1935. The matron of the public hospital has been the Superintendent of the Belize Clinic since 1932, and is assisted by several ladies of the community. The League is supported by voluntary contributions and a small Government subsidy.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the Polo Club, the Golf Club and Newtown Club, all in Belize.

There are cricket, tennis, football and basket-ball competitions; baseball is also played.

There are several musical associations and excellent Band concerts are given twice a month in Belize, under the auspices of the Town Board. A cinema theatre in Belize affords entertainment on five days of the week.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Internal transport in the Colony is mostly carried out by means of its many rivers (motor-boats, pitpans and doreys being the media used). Mule transport is the method of carriage between the Cayo District and the Peten District of Guatemala.

There are no all-weather roads in the Colony except a few short stretches round each town. Grants have, however, been received from the Colonial Development Fund for the construction of certain main roads. One road is being constructed from Punta Gorda to the Indian Town of San Antonio, a distance of about twenty-one miles; seven miles of this have already been constructed and are open for motor traffic throughout the year. Another road under construction is that from Belize to Corozal, through the town of Orange Walk. The total distance is ninety-seven miles, and of this some forty-five miles have now been opened for motor traffic. In connection with this road a bridge is being built across the Belize River about five miles from Belize.

In addition to the above about fifty miles of "dry-weather" road has been built from Belize towards Cayo, but another forty miles must be constructed before this frontier town can be reached from the capital by motor transport.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs twenty-five miles inland through very fertile country.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tramcar or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by motor-cars, and of goods by motor-trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service between Belize and New Orleans weekly via Puerto Barrios, about once every three weeks via Cuba and Jamaica and approximately once a month direct by ships of the United Fruit Company. Small schooners provide a somewhat irregular service between Belize and Tampa, Florida and New Orleans.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool, and ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Line from Amsterdam, via the West Indies, call about once a month.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics by both steamers and sailing vessels.

A weekly air mail and passenger service through Mexico to Miami, Florida, is provided by the planes of the Pan American Airways, Incorporated.

There are twenty-five post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1935 was 476,700. Money and postal-order business amounting to $52,025 internal and $46,795 foreign was done in 1935.

There are fifty-five telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica ; Guatemala City and New Orleans, United States of America. During the year 1935 the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 5,548, and the number received was 5,473. The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports or Press messages.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue. There is a Government Savings Bank with deposits totalling $302,063 at the end of the year.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43, respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents, and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5 and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners

On the 21st of April, 1933, an Ordinance was assented to providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, the silver coins of the Colony shall be legal tender in the Colony for all purposes and to any amount. A suspending clause provides for the bringing into operation of the Ordinance, by Proclamation, on such day as the Governor shall direct and appoint.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use :—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	$2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts or $\frac{1}{2}$ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the police, who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

Owing to shortage of funds there was little expenditure on public works other than on ordinary maintenance, and on the construction of the roads referred to above. Six pressed steel tanks, of a total capacity of 2,372,000 Imperial gallons, are being constructed in Belize for the storage of rain-water, the expenditure being met from a grant from the Colonial Development Fund.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament " in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law " passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed " District Courts ") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and, subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences (excluding petty misdemeanours and petty offences) before the courts of the Colony during the year :—

Persons charged by police	1,094	
,, ,, otherwise	58	
	——	1,152
Convicted summarily	916	
Acquitted summarily	195	
Committed to Supreme Court	41	
	——	1,152
Convicted by Supreme Court	18	
Acquitted	7	
Nolle prosequi	15	
Awaiting trial	1	
	——	41

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of 2 officers and 118 other ranks. There are twenty-four stations in the Colony, eighteen of which are in telephonic communication.

The police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulation and signals. Applicants for motor drivers' licences are examined by the police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward. The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells each of approximately 700 cubic feet. In each of the five Districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lock-ups. That of the Corozal District is the largest and is surrounded by concrete walls. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize prison. The District prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under sixteen who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. There is no probation system in force at present, but an Ordinance to provide for such a system has been enacted recently and will be brought into operation in due course. The general health of the prisoners at the Belize prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Forty-six Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the undermentioned are the more important :—

No. 1 of 1935—*The Customs and Excise Duties Ordinance*, 1935, which amends and consolidates the law relating to Customs and Excise Duties.

No. 4 of 1935—*The Judicial Proceedings* (*Regulation of Reports*) *Ordinance*, 1935, regulating the publication of reports of judicial proceedings in such manner as to prevent injury to public morals.

No. 7 of 1935—*The Hours of Employment Ordinance*, 1935, providing for the limitation of the Hours of Employment in certain cases.

No. 12 of 1935—*The Supreme Court* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*, 1935, which confers on the Supreme Court jurisdiction in matrimonial causes.

No. 13 of 1935—*The British Honduras Constitution Ordinance*, 1935, which amends the existing constitution so as to provide for elected representation on the Legislative Council.

No. 14 of 1935—*The Electoral Qualification and Regulations Ordinance*, 1935, which provides for the qualification and election of certain members of the Legislative Council of British Honduras and for the registration of voters.

No. 16 of 1935—*The Income Tax* (*Amendment*) *Ordinance*. 1935, which increases the rates of tax on persons and companies.

No. 25 of 1935—*The Public Safety Ordinance*, 1935, which confers on the Governor in Council power to make better provision for the public safety during times of civil commotion.

No. 29 of 1935—*The Foreign Judgments* (*Reciprocal Enforcement*) *Ordinance*, 1935, providing for the enforcement of judgments given in foreign countries which accord reciprocal treatment to judgments given in this Colony.

No. 37 of 1935—*The Jubilee Public Library Ordinance*, 1935, establishing the Jubilee Public Library.

No. 44 of 1935—*The Chicle Protection Ordinance*, 1935, providing for the Protection and control of chicle.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The Financial year of the Colony comprises the period 1st January to 31st December.

The revenue for the Colony for the year ended the 31st of December, 1935, was $829,133. This sum excludes the loan-in-aid from Imperial Funds amounting to $251,550 and payments from the Colonial Development Fund totalling $2[illegible]5,006.

The revenue for the same period of the preceding year, excluding $99,600 from Imperial Funds and $20,825 paid from the Colonial Development Fund, was $724,594.

The total expenditure for the year 1935 was $1,352,760 including $256,013 in respect of Colonial Development Fund grants and $75,501 due to the abolition of certain Boards.

The totals of "true" Revenue and Expenditure (i.e., excluding Colonial Development Fund monies and the Loan-in-Aid) for the last six years are given below :—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1930–31	1,160,445	1,087,047
1931–32	875,045	1,035,600
1932–33	825,116*	940,985
1933–34	952,644†	958,233
1934 (12 months)	724,594‡	1,038,045‖
1935	829,133§	1,021,224¶

At the close of the year the funded public debt stood at $3,031,000. In addition, the total outstanding on advance account in connexion with loan works amounted to $100,000. The total of the accumulated sinking funds towards redemption of the funded debt was $390,000.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets, which consist chiefly of Investments, advances, building and Company loans and cash in hand, amounted at 31st December, 1935, to a total of $516,650. The main liabilities were :—

Savings Bank, $300,000, advances from Joint Colonial Fund, $385,000, and Loan Funds $12,289.

There is a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with a balance of $12,000. The difference is made up of sundry deposits.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation are :—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duties.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income-tax.

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* Excludes $68,600 loan-in-aid, but includes $26,056 receipts from German Reparations, and grant in connexion with 1931 Hurricane of $18,950.

† Excludes $103,600 loan-in-aid, but includes $260,250 for investments realized, appreciation of investments and transfer of Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

‡ Excludes loan-in-aid $99,600 and $20,825 from the Colonial Development Fund.

§ Excludes loan-in-aid $251,550 and payments from the Colonial Development Fund amounting to $275,006.

‖ Excludes $34,290 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

¶ Excluding $256,013 for Colonial Development Fund Works and $75,501 due to the abolition of certain Boards.

5. Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rent.

Customs Import Duties are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with Specific duties on wines, spirits and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 12½ per cent. and 25 per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs, respectively. A package tax at the rate of 5 cents per package was also introduced with effect from 1st January, 1932, which was increased to 10 cents as from 14th January, 1935.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported other than those produced locally.

Excise Duty at the rate of $3·00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and intended for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 1½ cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of a maximum of 50 cents an acre, all of which above 10 cents is earmarked for improvements and road construction; but refunds are made on improved land.

The *Income-tax* rate is low, the percentage of tax on chargeable income up to $30,000 being 7·3 per cent. only.

Fines of Courts are casual; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every $50·00 or part thereof.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years:—

	1931–32. $	1932–33. $	1933–34. $	1934.* $	1935. $
Customs, Import, and Export Duties	546,785	425,858	376,227	265,103	404,966
Excise Duties	60,873	40,706	34,816	35,343	50,681
Land Tax	36,807	30,195	27,431	13,607	30,845
Income-tax	29,259	25,162	10,539	6,515	26,520
Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies	1,413	1,317	1,034	130	1,114
Fines of Courts	5,014	2,901	2,126	2,517	2,922
Estate Duty	1,429	2,172	2,874	4,658	456
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties	12,121	9,921	8,251	4,877	9,001
Warehouse Rent	19,040	20,798	18,033	8,869	14,923

* 9 months April to December, 1934.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the calendar year 1935, 100 applications for leases aggregating 2,495 acres of agricultural land and forty-six applications for leases of fifty-eight town and village lots were approved and taken up by the lessees. Six hundred and five acres of agricultural land were sold to twenty-nine applicants for $688·57 and three town and village lots were sold to three applicants for $258·55. Grants were approved for a total area of 162 acres in twelve parcels without payment. Of these, nine acres in one parcel were given for religious and educational purposes. Twenty-five acres in four parcels were made to claimants under Section 19, Chapter 88 and 128 acres in seven parcels in respect of service in the Volunteer Force. Nine titles for nine town lots and fifteen titles for 550 acres of agricultural land were issued.

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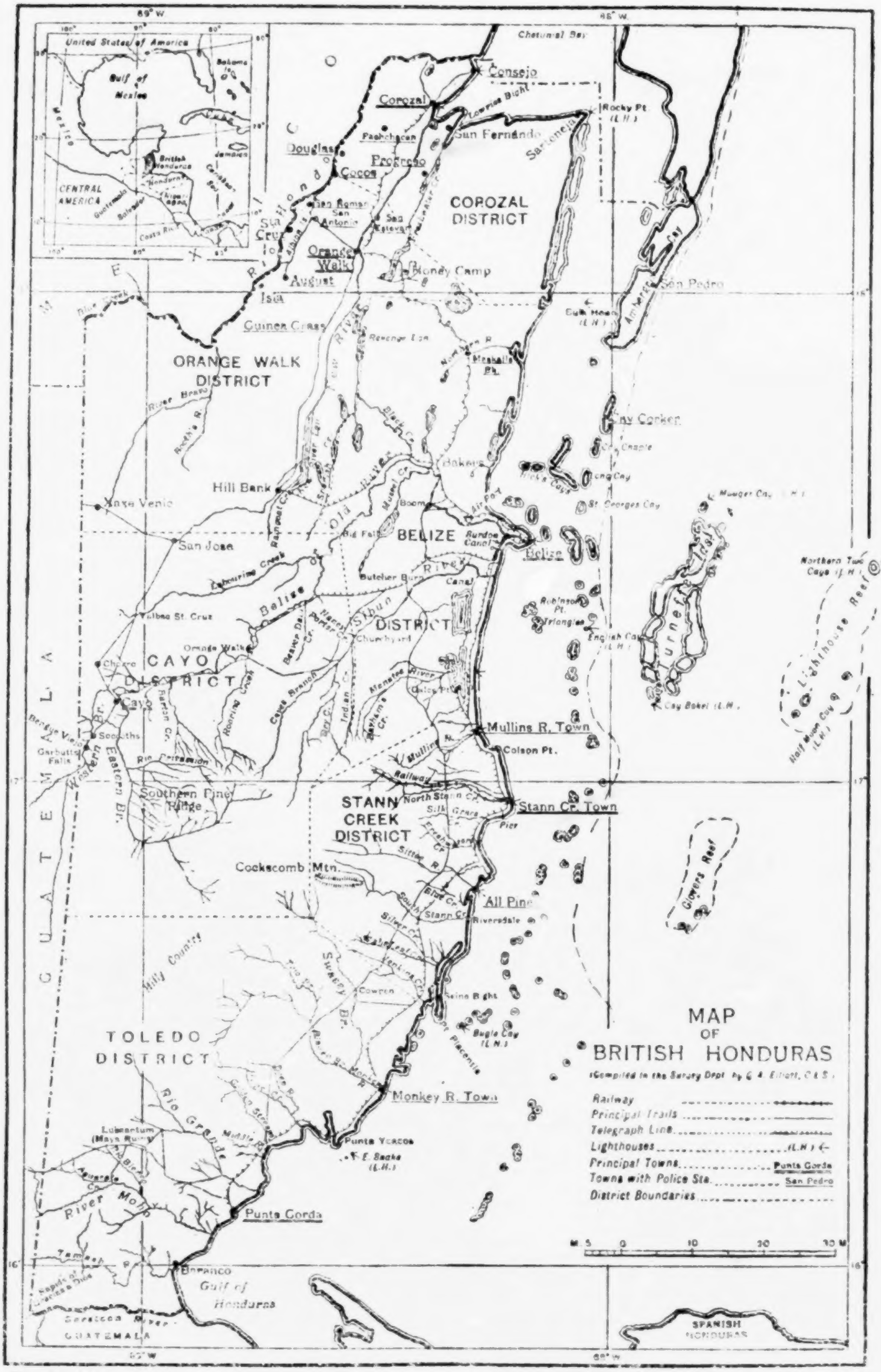
MAP OF BRITISH HONDURAS
(Compiled in the Survey Dept. by G. A. Ellrott, C.E.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M.
89° W.
88° W.
18°
17°
16°
COROZAL DISTRICT
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
BELIZE DISTRICT
CAYO DISTRICT
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
TOLEDO DISTRICT
MEXICO
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS
Chetumal Bay
Gulf of Honduras
Consejo
Corozal
San Fernando
Douglas
Cocos
Progreso
Orange Walk
August
San Pedro
Belize
Hill Bank
San Jose
Cayo
Mullins R. Town
Stann Cr. Town
All Pines
Monkey R. Town
Punta Gorda
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ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF BRITISH HONDURAS, 1936

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The Colony is bounded on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the north and north-west by Mexico, and on the west and south-west by Guatemala. The frontier with Mexico follows the course of the River Hondo; that with Guatemala follows the course of the River Sarstoon on the south, continuing by a line drawn from the Gracias a Dios Falls, on the River Sarstoon, to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, and from Garbutt's Falls due north to the Mexican frontier. The greatest length of the Colony is about 174 miles and the greatest width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

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A number of " cays " and reefs lie off the mainland of the Colony at varying distances from the coast, in an almost continuous line from the point of the Yucatan peninsular to the southern boundary of the Colony. The largest of these are Ambergris Cay and Cay Caulker, while the Turneffe group of cays covers a large area.

Near the coast the land is low and swampy, but gradually rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is low-lying, but further south the country is hilly and even mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb Range to a height of 3,700 feet. The Colony is well watered, and its numerous rivers provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries. Europeans leading a normal life and taking ordinary precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The average rainfall at Belize was 81.96 inches for the last five years.

The extremes of temperature and the rainfall at Belize for the last ten years were as follows:—

	Extremes of temperature.				*Year's Rainfall.*
		F°		F°	*inches.*
1936 ...	15th June... ...	91	17th December ...	56	114·04
1935 ...	4th September ...	91	6th February ...	51	64·16
1934 ...	16th April... ...	93	13th December ...	56	91·21
1933 ...	5th May	91·5	1st January ...	61·5	73·03
1932 ...	15th September ...	93	21st November ...	59	67·36
1931 ...	12th May	89	22nd January ...	51	120·23
1930 ...	27th May ... ... 7th September ...	89	24th December ...	59	84·73
1929 ...	28th September ...	90	30th January ...	57	113·57
1928 ...	18th July	88·5	26th December ...	57	52·29
1927 ...	18th August ...	88	11th January ...	56·5	68·61

History.

It is thought that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. The country first became known to Englishmen about 1638. It is probable that settlers from Jamaica visited the country and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves in what is now British Honduras. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them and, as England was frequently at War with Spain in those days, such conflicts were natural. Even after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, there was fighting between the subjects of the King of England and those of the King of Spain in Central America. The Spaniards made frequent attempts to expel the Englishmen and their slaves, but in 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time. The population of the British settlement in and near Belize, the chief town, included at this date 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671, the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having " increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies ". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713, there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717, the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754, another attempt was made by the Spaniards and defeated " principally by slaves," at Labouring Creek. In 1779, St. George's Cay was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Cay, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally defeated on the 10th of September, 1798, at St. George's Cay, after trying for a century and a half to expel the British.

In the year 1849 the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many Spaniards were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of British Honduras. From the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan made repeated raids into the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people," founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people." This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws."

In 1786, a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791 to 1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870, the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. From 1913 to 1936 the Council consisted of six official and seven unofficial members.

On the 31st of October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on the 10th of September, 1909.

On the 11th January, 1936, by Proclamation, the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, as amended by Ordinance No. 18 of 1935, was brought into operation. This Ordinance is entitled " An Ordinance to provide for the Constitution and Legislative Council of the Colony " and provides for the determination of the old Legislative Council and substitutes a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor as President, five official members and seven unofficial members of whom two shall be nominated by the Governor and five elected for four constituencies. The new Council met for the first time on 12th March, 1936.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided, also a casting vote. " Provided that if the Governor shall consider it necessary—

> (i) in the interests of public order, public faith, or other essentials of good government, including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire;
>
> or
>
> (ii) to secure (within the scope of the Bill, motion, resolution or vote concerned) detailed control of the finances of the Colony during such time as, by virtue of receipt of financial assistance by the Colony from His Majesty's Exchequer for the purpose of balancing the annual budget or otherwise, such control rests with His Majesty's Government;

that any Bill, motion, resolution or vote proposed for the decision of the Council should have effect, then if the Council fails to pass such Bill, motion, resolution or vote within such time as he may think reasonable and expedient, the Governor at any time within his discretion may, notwithstanding any provision to the contrary declare that any such Bill, motion, resolution or vote shall have effect, and thereupon the same shall have effect as if it had been passed by the Council."

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the close of the year under review there were four nominated members, of whom three were non-officials.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital, at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corzal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District, and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. Except in the case of the Belize District, he is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughter-houses, traffic regulations, the naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elected Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Cay, Cay Caulker, and Ambergris Cay.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1936 was estimated at 56,071, and consisted of 27,688 males and 28,383 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by Caribs, while in the Toledo District Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemaltecans, Mexicans and a few Syrians. In the capital the "Creoles" (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in Square Miles.*	*Persons per Square Mile.*
Belize	21,683	1,623	12·35
Corozal	8,119	718	11·31
Orange Walk ...	6,447	1,462	4·41
Stann Creek ...	6,250	840	7·44
Toledo	6,308	2,125	2·96
Cayo	7,264	1,830	3·97
Colony	56,071	8,598	6·52

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages and the infantile mortality for 1936 with comparative figures for the previous two years:—

	Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.		Infantile Mortality.	
Year.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.	No.	Per cent.
1934 ...	1,945	3·55	971	1·77	450	0·82	200	10·28
1935 ...	2,081	3·75	1,377	2·48	370	0·67	354	17·01
1936 ...	1,879	3·35	1,256	2·24	436	0·77	287	15·27

No record is kept of emigration and immigration.

IV.—HEALTH.

Quarantinable Diseases.—During the year 1936 there were eight cases of Variola Minor (Alastrim), distributed as follows: Corozal 2, Orange Walk 4, Belize 2.

The Medical Officers vaccinated all contacts. The last case reported was in May. There is good reason to believe that the original infective case came from Quintana Roo, Mexico. There is a frontier of several score miles along which, owing to financial stringency, it is impossible to put a sanitary cordon.

Malaria is endemic, and is responsible for a great deal of morbidity amongst the population.

Intestinal parasites—especially in the regions outside of Belize, are a potent source of ill-health.

Nutrition.—Many of the poor classes can be said to suffer from malnutrition. During the year there has been a slight improvement in economic conditions with a consequent improvement in the diet of these classes.

Malaria, intestinal parasites and malnutrition, all preventible to a greater or less extent, are persistent evils which sap the vitality of a population not intrinsically of feeble and degenerate stock.

Dysentery.—Both amoebic and bacillary forms occur.

Tuberculosis is prevalent, but accurate statistics are not available, since tuberculosis has such a social stigma that patients do not seek treatment till the disease is hopelessly advanced.

Venereal diseases.—These diseases are very prevalent in the Colony. Treatment, if sought at all, is sought for the acute manifestations of the diseases only. Once the acute symtoms have been relieved, the patient is satisfied and does not return for further treatment. Late lesions are in consequence very common. The venereal disease ward in Belize Hospital is always full. The weekly venereal disease clinic for out-patients was working for the greater part of the year.

A modern X-Ray plant was installed in the Belize Hospital during the year.

A laboratory for bacteriological and biochemical diagnostic procedures was established during the year. A dispenser was sent to Jamaica to be trained as laboratory technician. Owing to shortage of medical staff, full use has not yet been made of the facilities the laboratory offers.

A new operating table for the Belize Hospital has replaced one which had been in use for 29 years.

There is a persistent and increasing demand for private ward accommodation in the Belize Hospital which cannot be met as the block of private wards destroyed in the hurricane of 1931 has not been replaced.

There are six hospitals in the Colony—one for each District. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains 62 beds and 12 cots. The number of beds in the other hospitals ranges from 19 to 6. In these hospitals treatment is afforded for medical, surgical and obstetrical cases. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3.00 a day for each person. Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals. Accommodation for 12 destitute sufferers from this disease is provided near the Belize Poor House.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in the charge of a Medical Officer under a Senior Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize Hospital there is one English-trained Matron controlling a subordinate native nursing staff. At each District hospital there is a competent native nursing staff, together with a competent native nurse who has received a course of training at the Belize hospital extending over a period of three years.

The construction of street-drains in Belize was started, and work proceeded rapidly until an abnormally heavy rainy season in the latter part of the year brought work to a standstill. Already a great improvement can be observed, but as some of the drains had to be above the level of the lots, many of the latter are flooded and remain so sometimes for as long as 10 days after the cessation of the rains. This is a source of grave anxiety from an anti-malarial point of view. The only solution seems to be the expensive one of proper filling and grading of the lots.

During the year the water supply of Belize has been augmented by the construction of 6 tanks of a total capacity of 2,372,330 Imperial gallons. Pipes lead the water to street hydrants at convenient locations in the neighbourhood which each tank serves.

This additional water supply, added to the previously existing household vats, is believed to render the town free of the fear of water shortage during the dry season.

All water receptacles are inspected by Sanitary Inspectors, those not screened being stocked with larvivorous fish.

Owing to the amount of work thrown on the Inspectors from matters relating to the new drains and filling of lots, and also changes in the cadre of the inspectors, it has not been possible to carry out a regular weekly inspection of water receptacles. The abnormal wet season in the latter four months of the year, combined with financial stringency, handicapped the Department in carrying out the usual measures for the prevention of malaria. There was, in consequence, an increase in the number of mosquitos, and the Department is concerned with the large number of *Aedes egypti* to be found.

The scavenging of the town of Belize and other towns in the Colony is performed by the Local Authority and under the direction of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The majority of householders in Belize empty their utensils into the river, into the canals which run through the town, or into the sea.

Individual septic tanks are becoming popular among the better-class residents, but there are too many houses where owing to lack of water, funds, or of space, water-closets are an impossibility. This being so, the emptying of utensils into the canals, while it may be unsightly and disagreeable, is far more sanitary than storage in pails or pits within the house or in close proximity to other houses. In the outlying towns conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages methods of disposal of night-soil are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

In Belize the population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often low-lying, swampy and flooded. The work of the Town Board and the efforts of private individuals are gradually showing a marked improvement in this connexion; more especially is this so in the northern area—Freetown Area—where extensive filling-in has been done in connexion with the reclamation scheme, jointly financed by the Government and the Town Board. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping-room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing-room, kitchen or garage.

There were no building regulations before the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where and in whatever manner they liked. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back-yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in, and free space around, each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections.

The Public Health legislation was amended with the object of giving the Local Health Authority of Belize a greater scope in the control of the manufacture of food-stuffs and to empower medical examination of handlers and vendors of such food-stuffs; and also of empowering the Local Authority of Belize to enforce the building of latrines and/or water closets on each premises.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are:—

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, rosewood and logwood.

Other hardwood species are occasionally cut for export and pine is utilized for the local market.

Other forest produce.—Chicle, hides and skins, chiefly crocodile skins.

Agricultural produce.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts and copra, maize, sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulses and rice.

Livestock.—Swine, cattle and poultry.

Marine.—Tortoise-shell, shark products, lobsters, sponges, and fish of many varieties.

Forest produce, chiefly timber and chicle, form the greater proportion of the export trade in domestic produce, as shown in the table below. The decrease in the proportion of forest produce below the ten-years average is due partly to increased interest in agriculture, particularly in the production of bananas, but chiefly to the fact that forest produce is still recovering from the recent depression while agricultural produce shows a very welcome general increase.

	$	*1926–1935 (average). Percentage of total exports.*	$	*1935. Percentage of total exports.*	$	*1936. Percentage of total exports.*
Forest Produce ...	1,064,289	83	648,848	70·17	856,613	69·07
Agricultural produce	205,064	16	268,285	29·01	377,539	30·45
Marine and other produce	13,810	1	7,583	0·82	5,960	0·48

The demand for mahogany increased very considerably but the extremely dry season prevented the filling of contracts. The American buying companies definitely prefer the high grade wood obtainable from the north of the Colony and the large wood of the western limestone regions, and this preference will continue in 1937.

The Belize mill maintained its production of lumber, chiefly for the United Kingdom market, on a high standard of sawing and grading.

The following figures show the exports of mahogany and cedar logs and lumber in the last three years:—

	1934. 1,000 s. ft.	*1935. 1,000 s. ft.*	*1936. 1,000 s. ft.*
Mahogany logs exported... ...	2,202	1,913	4,843
Mahogany lumber exported ...	2,477	4,242	3,713
Cedar logs exported	23	196	247
Cedar lumber exported	11	52	46

The price of chicle rose slightly and there was increased production, due probably to the disorganisation of the Mexican trade in this product in the 1936-37 season, the consequent availability of chicleros and the long wet season.

No improvement is shown in the logwood trade. The wood is shipped only in log form and it is not believed that the installation of an extract factory would affect the export total. Rosewood maintained its position following the recent revival, but northern rosewood is not liked by the buyers and exploitation of this wood has now ceased.

The preoccupation of woodcutters in the mahogany industry has caused a complete cessation of the marketing experiments in less well-known hardwoods, of which banak showed most promise. This state of affairs will, it is believed, continue in 1937.

The investigation into the forest resources of the Colony continues, but the reports received from the Forest Products Research Laboratories in England do not show much promise of a market for the Colony's wood there. The demand is for lumber rather than logs and in the absence of efficient mills, attempts to find markets are abortive.

The Crown pine concession has not yet been taken up, but a small portable mill has been installed in other Crown pine forest to supply sleepers to the Government Railway and the local markets.

The collection of hides and skins continues on a small scale.

Agriculture.

The exceptionally heavy rains experienced throughout the Colony have seriously affected the production of most of the staple food crops. Rice particularly has suffered and the total output is negligible as compared with that of the past few years.

Provision was made early in the year for a new Agricultural Settlement for 50 families in the Rockstone Pond area, about 25 miles North-west of Belize. The opening of this Settlement, however, had to be postponed for various reasons until the beginning of 1937. To date (December, 1936), 70 applications have been received. The purpose of this Settlement is primarily to enable unemployed persons to take up agriculture for a living.

The Board of Agriculture buying scheme for grain produce proved a great help to planters and can now be considered a permanent institution. The facilities afforded by the drying plants for cleaning and drying the grains purchased reduced wastage to a minimum and thereby increased the length of time that they could be held in storage.

The two rice mills operated during the year and all milled rice was sold. Some difficulty was experienced in disposing of the 1935 crop, milled in 1936, due to competition from imported rice and prejudice against the use of the local product. This prejudice was eventually broken down and it is believed that consumers now realize that locally grown rice is as good and better than the imported article.

Rice growing received a serious set-back on account of the heavy rains especially at harvest time. It continues to be affected by the increasing popularity of banana growing especially in the Punta Gorda district, in spite of the comparatively high price paid for padi, facilities for mechanical threshing and ease of marketing.

During the year, trials were started on private holdings of one of the imported varieties of rice which has given consistently good results on the Rice Experiment Station during the last three seasons. If these trials prove satisfactory increased distributions of this type will be made next season.

Banana growing continues to increase in importance, unfortunately, in many areas, to the detriment of food-stuff production. Considerable activity has been shown in the viciinity of El Cayo and nearby lands on the Belize River. It is thought that this area contains some of the best banana land in the Colony and should remain in production for a considerable time provided, of course, that proper precautions are taken to prevent the introduction of Panama and other diseases and an efficient type of cultural treatment is adopted. Transportation is the greatest handicap but work on improving the navigability of the Belize River is to start early in the new year.

Panama disease continues to be a limiting factor in most areas. It is now making headway in the Toledo Settlement area. Sigatoka Leaf Disease (Cercospora Leaf-Spot) has appeared in the Toledo Settlement farms and is probably present elsewhere in the South. This disease may prove to be more serious than Panama disease. Exports of bananas and plaintains are shown in the following table:—

	1934.		*1935.*		*1936.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Bananas, bunches	293,293	93,721	356,056	125,274	696,127	244,238
Plantains, number	429,250	2,408	162,560	1,007	198,200	2,314

The production of copra increased considerably during the year. The demand from Mexico improved and prices advanced. Coconut yields throughout the Colony were poor, due no doubt, to the effect of last year's drought. Towards the end of the year yields showed an increase as well as did the demand for and market price of coconuts. Exports are tabulated below:—

	1934.		*1935.*		*1936.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Coconuts, No.	5,232,861	64,855	6,589,320	96,515	4,310,110	63,930
Copra, lb. ...	332,883	5,010	5,230	52	425,996	10,456

The citrus industry, particularly in Stann Creek, continues to increase in importance. During the early part of the year, good crops were realized, particularly in the young groves. The rainfall during the year which has been much above the average has caused a reduction in fruit setting and thus the 1936-37 crop will be less than was originally estimated. There is very little fruit in the Corozal District as a result of excessive rains. The total area planted to citrus of improved varieties is estimated to be 1,250 acres of which grapefruit accounts for about 70 per cent.

Increased interest in citrus culture has been shown by farmers in the Corozal District. An attempt is being made to organize a branch of the British Honduras Citrus Association with a central packing shed in Corozal.

Prices for citrus fruit from this Colony have been good throughout the year considering the general run of prices on the Canadian and United Kingdom markets. The following table shows the exports during the last three years:—

	1934.		*1935.*		*1936.*	
	Quantity. *Cwts.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.* *Cwts.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.* *Cwts.*	*Value.* $
Grapefruit ...	13,400	33,569	15,450	32,280	18,781	41,177
Oranges	2,143	1,896	1,633	1,895	291	537
Tangerines and Mandarines	197	511	117	219	181	326
Miscellaneous (Lemons, etc.)	13	44	—	—	—	—
Grapefruit, canned	—	—	352	2,014	1,416	8,381
Grapefruit, juice...	—	—	42	156	612	2,703

The planting of sugar-cane in the Corozal District increased considerably during the year and the area now under improved varieties—mainly P.O.J. 2878 and B.H. 10 (12)—is greater than ever before. The demand for planting material was greater than the supply. The Department of Agriculture will, however, be able to distribute ample material in future. Trials with other varieties are under way as well as cultural and manurial trials with the two varieties mentioned above. The Corozal Sugar Factory will start its first grinding season early in 1937. As a result of weather conditions the production of ground provisions, grains and vegetables suffered. Pulses—especially the summer crop of Black Eye and Cowpeas—have been conspicuous by their absence. Maize production in the north did not suffer so greatly but there was a reduction in area due to the attraction of employment on road building, and in mahogany and chicle works.

Some interest has been shown in the growing of peanuts for local consumption and this crop has been added to those purchased by the Board of Agriculture.

Interest in the establishment of school gardens has been renewed. As a start three gardens are being opened in Corozal, one for each denominational school, under the supervision of the District Agricultural Officer.

More interest is being taken in the Livestock industry. One firm imported six grade Aberdeen—Angus bulls during the year and the Department of Agriculture introduced one boar and two sows of the Canadian Berkshire breed of pigs.

VII.—COMMERCE.

While exports of mahogany lumber to the United Kingdom showed a slight decrease the export of mahogany logs, the bulk of which went to the United States of America, increased considerably. Exports of bananas nearly doubled during the year, and there was a slight increase in chicle exports. Both fresh and canned grapefruit exports increased.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $5,686,684, which was more by $1,310,,846 than the total of $4,375,838 in 1935.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table:—

	1932. $	*1933.* $	*1934.* $	*1935.** $	*1936.* $
Imports	2,301,838	1,687,112	1,912,375	2,676,795	3,272,833
Exports	1,447,484	1,042,095	1,520,917	1,699,043	2,413,851
Trade	3,749,322	2,729,207	3,433,292	4,375,838	5,686,684

* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

The following table shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, and the United States of America and other foreign countries in 1936 compared with the trade of 1920:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1936.	1920.	1936.	1920.	1936.
United Kingdom and British Possessions	17·45	38·81	14·88	19·30	16·17	30·65
United States of America	60·44	29·03	78·18	65·45	69·31	44·55
Other Countries	22·11	32·16	6·94	15·25	14·52	24·80

Imports.

The imports in 1936 amounted to $3,272,833 as against $2,676,795 in 1935, an increase of $596,038. The direction of the import trade during the years 1932–1936 is shown in the following table :—

	1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.*		1936.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	424,339	18·43	418,511	24·81	466,733	24·40	731,396	27·32	872,252	26·65
Canada	704,543	30·61	326,433	19·35	200,610	10·49	263,719	9·85	268,679	8·21
Other British Possessions	42,146	1·83	48,578	2·88	49,675	2·60	105,370	3·93	129,463	3·95
United States of America	815,093	35·41	633,900	37·57	684,776	35·81	746,257	27·87	950,397	29·03
Mexico	92,297	4·01	78,978	4·67	284,344	14·87	528,529	19·74	734,273	21·82
Other Countries	223,420	9·70	180,712	10·72	226,237	11·83	301,524	11·29	317,769	10·34

* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

Exports.

Exports amounted to $2,413,851 in 1936 or $758,251 more than the total of $1,699,043 in 1935.

The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1932–1936 :—

	1932.		1933.		1934.		1935.*		1936.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	63,314	4·31	86,642	8·31	288,722	18·98	317,510	18·82	405,720	16·80
Canada	51,531	3·56	126,925	12·18	31,336	2·06	50,450	2·97	47,840	1·98
Other British Possessions	671,519	46·39	354,276	33·99	118,200	7·77	55,362	3·26	18,991	·78
United States of America	528,489	36·51	377,742	36·25	953,131	61·48	1,059,394	62·35	1,583,475	65·59
Other Countries	133,631	9·23	96,510	9·27	129,528	9·71	216,327	12·60	357,825	14·85

Domestic exports amounted to $1,354,568, an increase of $392,839 over the 1935 total. Exports of mahogany logs and lumber amounted to 53·28 per cent. of the total.

* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the major exports for the last four years is given below:—

	1936.	*1935.**	*1934.*	*1933.*
Mahogany logs, cubic feet	403,547	159,500	183,479	9,104
Mahogany lumber, „ „	310,043	353,567	206,445	44,262
Chicle, lb.	767,128	735,240	787,526	726,782
Bananas, bunches	696,127	356,056	293,293	141,682

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 416,062, an increase of 8,885 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,390	86,851	88,241
United States of America ...	241	30,687	30,928
Other	2,146	86,387	88,533
Total	3,777	203,925	207,702

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	1,332	87,567	88,899
United States of America ...	251	30,321	30,572
Other	2,051	86,838	88,889
Total	3,634	204,726	208,360

The total tonnage during the last five years was:—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1932	292,586	280,690	573,276
1933	242,288	237,240	479,528
1934	247,914	243,335	491,249
1935*	202,654	204,523	407,177
1936	207,702	208,360	416,062

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes:—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).

(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

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* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

The average wage for agricultural labourers is about 65 cents per diem, including rations. Such labourers are engaged principally, on sugar, coconut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are nine a day, with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are usually provided with free quarters (huts).

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows:—

Artisans from $1.25 to $1.75 a day; carpenters, shipwrights, painters and masons, from $1.25 to $2.50 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging for housemaids vary from $1.25 to $2.50; for cooks from $1.00 to $2.50; laundresses from $1.00 to $2.00.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows:—

Unskilled labourers, $0.75 to $1.25 a day.

Artisans, $1.25 to $1.75 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize.

The following comparison between the staple foodstuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded:—

1 lb.	*Cents.*	$	*lb.*
Flour	= 03	0·75 a day	= 25
Rice	= 03½	0·75 ,,	= 20
Beans	= 04	0·75 ,,	= 18·75
Mess Pork	= 15	0·75 ,,	= 5
Sugar	= 04	0·75 ,,	= 18·75

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows:—

In Belize—

In hotels.—$2.00 to $3.00 a day.

In boarding-houses.—$2.00 a day; $50.00 to $60.00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding-houses available except at Corozal, where there are a few hotels. The cost of living generally is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In consequence of a report made by Mr. B. H. Easter, M.B.E., Director of Education, Jamaica, the educational system of the Colony is being altered. The system of elementary education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926 as amended by No. 38 of 1935). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is 65, 56 being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize, where a civilian is employed; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years of age, and are applied towards the salaries of the teaching staff of the schools, and the provision and upkeep of buildings and equipment.

The total grants for the year to elementary schools amounted to $65,971; average grant per head of average attendance in aided elementary schools was $10.14.

The total cost to the Government, including administration, was $74,956; average cost per head including administration charges $11.52.

There are a few private schools in Belize that receive no aid.

The number of aided schools in operation during the year was 77; 155 paid teachers and an average of 41 pupil teachers were employed. The average enrolment of aided elementary schools was 8,529 of whom 4,454 were boys and 4,075 girls; the average attendance was 6,506, of whom 3,415 were boys and 3,091 girls. The average enrolment of all elementary schools was 8,916 and the average attendance 8,860.

Instruction in handicrafts and domestic science has been commenced at three centres in Belize (for selected children), and the teaching of agriculture is being encouraged in rural schools by instruction grants to teachers and by free grants of tools.

Secondary education continues to be a private undertaking conducted by the religious denominations. In Belize there are four schools, namely, the St. Hilda's College for Girls, conducted by the Anglican Church, the St. John's College for Boys conducted by the Jesuit Fathers, the St. Catherine's Academy, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, and the St. George's College, conducted jointly by the Anglican and Methodist Churches.

The average roll in these schools was 353, and the average attendance 331; but many pupils, of tender age, are not in the secondary department. The Cambridge University Local Examinations are taken.

Beginning with 1936, secondary schools are receiving aid in the form of Government scholarships, five of which, tenable for three years, are awarded at each of the four schools on the results of a competitive examination held each year. In this way these schools received $1,100 during 1936.

There is no provision for technical education; but mention might be made here of a Government industrial school in the Stann Creek Valley, where agriculture and farming are the principal features. There are no universities. Evening classes are conducted in a few schools, one being the St. John's College. No facilities are provided in the Colony for the study of art.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government poor-houses, one for men and the other for women.

Out-door relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $185.00. These payments are made, mainly, to aged and infirm persons who can no longer secure employment and are usually disbursed to mothers who have no means of supporting their children.

A society known as " The Woman's Auxiliary," in connection with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society, in connexion with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Methodist Women's League assist indigent persons. In addition, each Church has its poor-fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others.

There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members against sickness and death.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League continued to do good work during 1936. The matron of the public hospital has been the Superintendent of the Belize Clinic since 1932, and is assisted by several ladies of the community. The League is supported by voluntary contributions and a Government subsidy of $200.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the Polo Club, the Golf Club and Newtown Club, all in Belize.

There are cricket, tennis, football and basket-ball competitions; baseball is also played.

There are several musical associations and excellent Band concerts are given twice a month in Belize, under the auspices of the Town Board. A cinema theatre in Belize affords daily entertainment to the community.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Except for traffic between the District of Cayo and the Peten District of Guatemala where carriage is by mules, internal transport in the Colony is carried on mostly by means of its many rivers (in motor-boats, pit-pans and doreys).

With a grant from the Colonial Development Fund one main road is being reconstructed from Punta Gorda (Toledo District) to the Indian town of San Antonio, a distance of about twenty-one miles. Of this road, ten miles have already been completed and are open to traffic throughout the year. Another main road under construction is that from Belize to Corozal via the town of Orange Walk, a total distance of ninety-nine miles; forty-five miles are now open to motor traffic. In connexion with this road a bridge of reinforced concrete has been built across the Belize River at Haulover, about five miles from Belize.

In addition to the above about fifty miles of " dry-weather " road has been built from Belize towards Cayo, but another forty miles must be constructed before this frontier town can be reached from the capital by motor transport. Fourteen miles of this road (Belize to Boom) is being improved into an all weather road and the five miles of causeway—Belize to the Haulover Bridge—is being widened from a minimum width of 11 feet to 16 feet; the cost being met by a Colonial Development Fund grant.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs twenty-five miles inland through very fertile country.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tramcar or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by motor-cars, and of goods by motor-trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service between Belize and New Orleans weekly via Puerto Barrios, about once every three weeks via Cuba and Jamaica and approximately once a month direct by ships of the United Fruit Company. Small schooners provide a somewhat irregular service between Belize and Tampa, Florida, and New Orleans.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool, and ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Line from Amsterdam, via the West Indies, call about once a month.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics by both steamers and sailing vessels.

A weekly air mail and passenger service through Mexico to Miami, Florida, is provided by the planes of the Pan American Airways, Incorporated, and during the latter part of the year a similar service was commenced between Belize and the Republic of Honduras, Guatemala and other southern points by planes of the " Taca " Company.

There are twenty-eight post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1936 was 700,000. Money and postal order business amounting to $65,778 internal and $50,403 foreign was done in 1936.

There are sixty-seven telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City and New Orleans, United States of America. During the year 1936, the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 5,016 and the number received was 5,031. The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports or Press messages.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was brought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue. There is a Government Savings Bank with deposits totalling $350,576 at the end of the year.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5 and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners.

On the 21st of April, 1933, an Ordinance was assented to providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, the silver coins of the Colony shall be legal tender in the Colony for all purposes and to any amount. A suspending clause provides for the bringing into operation of the Ordinance, by Proclamation, on such day as the Governor shall direct and appoint.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use:—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the police, who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In addition to ordinary maintenance and the construction of roads, six pressed steel tanks, of a total capacity of 2,372,000 Imperial gallons, have been constructed in Belize for the storage of rain-water, the expenditure being met from a grant by the Colonial Development Fund.

A new building to be used as a Police Barracks and Armoury is at present being constructed and the cost met from Loan Funds.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law" passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed "District Courts") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences (excluding petty misdemeanours and petty offences) before the courts of the Colony during the year:—

Persons charged by police	1,304	
,, ,, otherwise	112	
		1,416
Convicted summarily	1,129	
Acquitted summarily	243	
Committed to Supreme Court	36	
Dealt with otherwise	8	
		1,416
Convicted by Supreme Court	19	
Acquitted	3	
Nolle prosequi	14	
		36

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of two officers and 118 other ranks. There are twenty-four stations in the Colony, eighteen of which are in telephonic communication.

The police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulation and signals. Applicants for motor drivers' licences are examined by the police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward.

The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells each of approximately 700 cubic feet. In each of the five Districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lock-ups. That of the Corozal District is the largest and is surrounded by concrete walls. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize prison. The District prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under sixteen who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. A Probation Officer has been appointed under the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932 (No. 7 of 1932) and the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1934 (No. 31 of 1934). The general health of the prisoners at the Belize prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty-four Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the under-mentioned are the more important:—

No. 3 of 1936—*The Counterfeit Currency (Convention) Ordinance.* To give effect to the Convention for the Suppression of Counterfeiting Curerncy, signed at Geneva on 20th April, 1929.

No. 9 of 1936—*The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance.* To facilitate the work of the Police in stamping out the "Ganga" evil. It is now an offence to be in possession of the seed of the plant from which the drug is obtained. Hitherto the law only applied to the plant itself and its products.

No. 10 of 1936.—*The Undesirable Immigrants Ordinance,* which amends and consolidates the law relating to the immigration of undesirable persons.

No. 14 of 1936.—*The Board of Agriculture Ordinance,* providing for the establishment of a Board of Agriculture.

No. 15 of 1936.—*The Juries (Amendment) Ordinance,* empowering the Court, in capital cases (if it shall appear to it to be advisable in the interests of Justice) to require the jury to be kept together during any adjournment after the close of the Judge's summing up.

No. 18 of 1936.—*The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance*, exempting from Income Tax (*a*) all the official emoluments received by the Officer Administering the Government during the period in which he is administering the Government; (*b*) all the emoluments drawn by the Governor himself while on leave.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year of the Colony comprises the period 1st January to 31st December.

The revenue for the Colony for the year ended 31st of December, 1936, was $989,797. This sum excludes the loan-in-aid from Imperial Funds amounting to $147,300 and payments from the Colonial Development and Loan Funds totalling $460,727.

The revenue for the preceding year, excluding $251,550 from Imperial Funds and $275,000 paid from the Colonial Development Fund, was $825,183.

The total expenditure for the year 1936 was $1,108,593 excluding $301,900 in respect of Colonial Development Fund grants.

The totals of " true " revenue and expenditure (i.e., excluding Colonial Development Fund monies and the Loan-in-Aid) for the last six years are given below:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1931–32	853,659 (*a*)	987,115 (*g*)
1932–33	809,131 (*b*)	918,836 (*h*)
1933–34	945,342 (*c*)	934,510 (*i*)
1934 (9 months)	510,477 (*d*)	791,899 (*j*)
1935	825,183 (*e*)	1,085,943 (*k*)
1936 (Estimated)	989,797 (*f*)	1,108,593 (*l*)

(*a*) Excludes $21,386 from the Colonial Development Fund.

(*b*) Excludes $68,600 loan-in-aid and $15,985 from the Colonial Development Fund, but includes $26,056 receipts from German Reparations, and grant in connexion with 1931 Hurricane of $18,950.

(*c*) Excludes $103,600 loan-in-aid and $7,292 from the Colonial Development Fund, but includes $260,250 for investments realized, appreciation of investments and transfer of Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

(*d*) Excludes loan-in-aid $99,600 and $17,424 from the Colonial Development Fund.

(*e*) Excludes loan-in-aid $251,550 and payments from the Colonial Development Fund amounting to $115,954.

(*f*) Excludes loan-in-aid $147,300 and receipts from Colonial Development Fund $315,671.57.

(*g*) Excludes $48,484 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*h*) Excludes $22,148 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*i*) Excludes $23,722 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*j*) Excludes $24,912 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*k*) Excluding $256,013 for Colonial Development Fund Works, but includes $75,501 due to the abolition of certain Boards.

(*l*) Excluding $301,900 for Colonial Development Fund Works and $8,606 for loan works.

At the close of the year the public debt stood at $3,133,000. The total of the accumulated sinking fund towards redemption of the funded portion of debt was $419,721.00.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets, which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and Company loans and cash in hand, amounted at 31st December, 1936, to a total of $1,342,705. The main liabilities were:—

Savings Bank, $350,000, advances from Joint Colonial Fund, $73,650, and Loan Funds $780,000.

There is a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with a balance of $12,000. The difference is made up of sundry deposits.

TAXATION.

The main heads of taxation are:—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duties.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income Tax.
5. Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rent.

Customs Import Duties are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 12½ per cent. and 25 per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs, respectively. There is a package tax of 10 cents per package.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported other than those produced locally.

Excise Duty at the rate of $3.00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and intended for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 1½ cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of a maximum of 50 cents an acre, all of which above 10 cents is earmarked for improvements and road construction; but refunds are made on improved land.

The *Income Tax* rate is low, the percentage of tax on chargeable income up to $30,000 being 7.3 per cent. only.

Fines of Courts are casual; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every $50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years:—

	1932–33.	*1933–34.*	*1934.**	*1935.*	*1936.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import, and Export Duties.	425,858	376,227	265,103	404,966	451,000
Excise Duties	40,706	34,816	35,343	50,681	59,300
Land Tax...	30,195	27,431	13,607	30,845	32,000
Income Tax	25,162	10,539	6,515	26,520	21,800
Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies.	1,317	1,034	130	1,114	1,075
Fines of Courts	2,901	2,126	2,517	2,922	4,400
Estate Duty	2,172	2,874	4,658	456	1,000
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.	9,921	8,251	4,877	9,001	10,500
Warehouse Rent ...	20,798	18,033	8,869	14,923	16,800

* 9 months April to December, 1934.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the calendar year 1936, sixty-three applications to lease town, and twenty-eight to lease village lots were approved and taken up. Four thousand one hundred and thirty acres were sold to two hundred and sixteen applicants under Location Tickets and subject to conditions as to cultivation and payment by semi-annual instalments.

Free Grants were approved for a total area of three hundred and six acres in seventeen parcels in respect of service in the Volunteer Force and the Fire Brigade.

Five titles for town lots and four titles for seventy-eight acres of agricultural land were issued. Thirteen Location Tickets were cancelled for non-payment of the first instalment.

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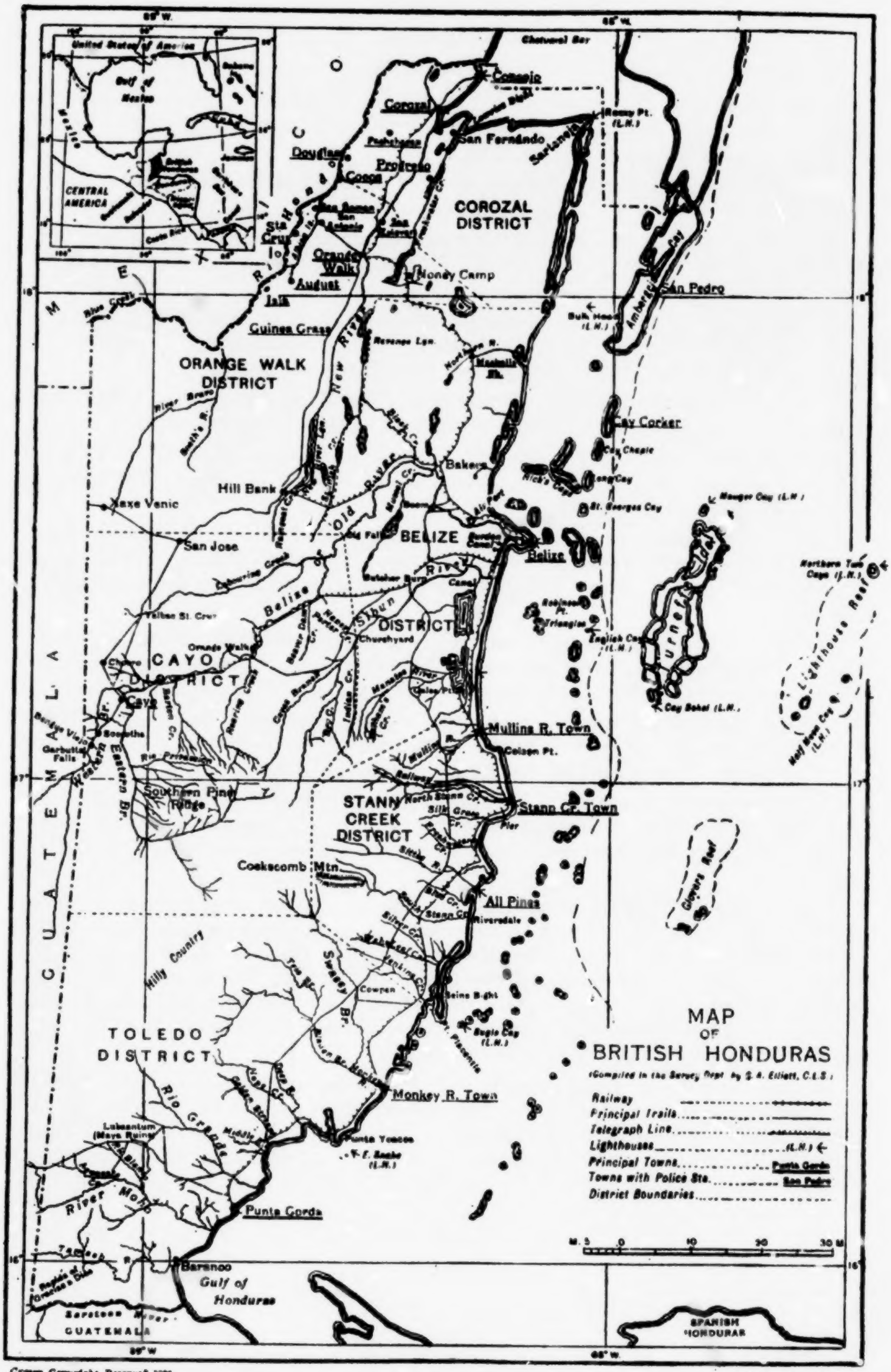
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Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
COROZAL DISTRICT
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
BELIZE DISTRICT
CAYO DISTRICT
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
TOLEDO DISTRICT
MEXICO
GUATEMALA
SPANISH HONDURAS
Chetumal Bay
Gulf of Honduras
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
CENTRAL AMERICA
Consejo
Corozal
San Fernando
Douglas
Progreso
Orange Walk
August
Honey Camp
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Guinea Grass
Cay Corker
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Belize
Turneffe
Lighthouse Reef
Glovers Reef
Cayo
Benque Viejo
Garbutt Falls
Southern Pine Ridge
Mullins R. Town
Stann Cr. Town
Cockscomb Mtn.
All Pines
Riverdale
Monkey R. Town
Punta Ycacos
Rio Grande
Lubaantun (Maya Ruins)
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Barranco
Sarstoon River
Hilly Country
88° W
89° W
17°
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1.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The Colony is bounded on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the north and north-west by Mexico, and on the west and south-west by Guatemala. The frontier with Mexico follows the course of the River Hondo; that with Guatemala follows the course of the River Sarstoon on the south, continuing by a line drawn from the Gracias a Dios Falls, on the River Sarstoon, to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, and from Garbutt's Falls due north to the Mexican frontier. The greatest length of the Colony is about 174 miles and the greatest width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

A number of "cays" and reefs lie off the mainland of the Colony at varying distances from the coast, in an almost continuous line from the point of the Yucatan peninsular to the southern boundary of the Colony. The largest of these are Ambergris Cay and Cay Caulker, while the Turneffe group of cays covers a large area.

Near the coast the land is low and swampy, but gradually rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is low-lying, but further south the country is hilly and even mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb Range to a height of 3,700 ft. The Colony is well watered, and its numerous rivers provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries. Europeans leading a normal life and taking ordinary precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The average rainfall at Belize was 83·35 ins. for the last five years.

The extremes of temperature and the rainfall at Belize for the last 10 years were as follows:—

	Extremes of temperature.				*Year's Rainfall.*
		F°		F°	*inches.*
1937 ...	30th August ...	90·5	3rd January ...	54	74·34
1936 ...	15th June... ...	91	17th December ...	56	114·04
1935 ...	4th September ...	91	6th February ...	51	64·16
1934 ...	16th April... ...	93	13th December ...	56	91·21
1933 ...	5th May	91·5	1st January ...	61·5	73·03
1932 ...	15th September ...	93	21st November ...	59	67·36
1931 ...	12th May	89	22nd January ...	51	120·23
1930 ...	27th May— 7th September ...	89	24th December ...	59	84·73
1929 ...	28th September ...	90	30th January ...	57	113·57
1928 ...	18th July	88·5	26th December ...	57	52·29

History.

It is thought that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. The country first became known to Englishmen about 1638. It is probable that settlers from Jamaica visited the country and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves in what is now British Honduras. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them and, as England was frequently at war with Spain in those days, such conflicts were natural. Even after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, there was fighting between the subjects of the King of England and those of the King of Spain in Central America. The Spaniards made frequent attempts to expel the Englishmen and their slaves, but in 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time. The population of the British settlement in and near Belize, the chief town, included at this date 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671, the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having " increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies ". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713, there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717, the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754, another attempt was made by the Spaniards and defeated " principally by slaves ", at Labouring Creek. In 1779, St. George's Cay was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Cay, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally defeated on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Cay, after trying for a century and a half to expel the British.

In the year 1849 the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many Spaniards were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of British Honduras. From the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan made repeated raids into the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people ", founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people ". This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws ".

In 1786, a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791 to 1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870, the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. From 1913 to 1936 the Council consisted of six official and seven unofficial members.

On the 31st of October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on the 10th of September, 1909.

On the 11th January, 1936, by Proclamation, the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, as amended by Ordinance No. 18 of 1935, was brought into operation. This Ordinance is entitled " An Ordinance to provide for the Constitution and Legislative Council of the Colony " and provides for the determination of the old Legislative Council and substitutes a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor as President, five official members and seven unofficial members of whom two shall be nominated by the Governor and five elected for four constituencies. The new Council met for the first time on 12th March, 1936.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided, also a casting vote.

"Provided that if the Governor shall consider it necessary—

> (i) in the interests of public order, public faith, or other essentials of good government, including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire;
>
> or
>
> (ii) to secure (within the scope of the Bill, motion, resolution or vote concerned) detailed control of the finances of the Colony during such time as, by virtue of receipt of financial assistance by the Colony from His Majesty's Exchequer for the purpose of balancing the annual budget or otherwise, such control rests with His Majesty's Government;

that any Bill, motion, resolution or vote proposed for the decision of the Council should have effect, then if the Council fails to pass such Bill, motion, resolution or vote within such time as he may think reasonable and expedient, the Governor at any time within his discretion may, notwithstanding any provison to the contrary declare that any such Bill, motion, resolution or vote shall have effect, and thereupon the same shall have effect as if it had been passed by the Council."

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the close of the year under review there were four nominated members, of whom three were non-officials.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into six Districts: Belize, which includes the capital, at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Corozal District; the Orange Walk District; the Cayo District the Stann Creek District, and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law. Except in the case of the Belize District, he is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

Under Chapter 125 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, there is a District Board, nominated by the Governor, in each District. These Boards have jurisdiction over sanitation and public health, markets, slaughterhouses, traffic regulations, the naming, numbering and lighting of places and streets in any town within their Districts, building construction, etc. Their revenues are mainly derived from property taxes, liquor and other licences, rents and fees.

There is a partly nominated and partly elected Town Board in the town of Belize, established under Chapter 118 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924. The Board exercises all the functions of a District Board, and its jurisdiction extends to and includes St. George's Cay, Cay Caulker, and Ambergris Cay.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1937 was estimated at 56,893, and consisted of 28,056 males and 28,837 females. Owing to intermixing, racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts are inhabited principally by the descendants of the Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by Caribs, while in the Toledo District Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemaltecans, Mexicans and a few Syrians. In the capital the "Creoles" (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there are also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in Square Miles.*	*Persons per Square Mile.*
Belize	22,015	1,623	13·56
Corozai	8,199	718	11·41
Orange Walk ...	6,513	1,462	4·45
Stann Creek ...	6,349	840	7·55
Toledo	6,430	2,125	3·03
Cayo	7,387	1,830	4·03
Colony	56,893	8,598	6·62

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages and the infantile mortality for 1937 with comparative figures for the previous two years:—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*No.*	*Per cent.*	*No.*	*Per cent.*	*No.*	*Per cent.*	*No.*	*Per cent.*
1935 ...	2,081	3·75	1,377	2·48	370	0·67	354	17·01
1936 ...	1,879	3·35	1,256	2·24	436	0·77	287	15·27
1937 ...	1,876	3·29	1,054	1·85	467	0·82	231	12·31

The total number of non-official imigrants arriving at ports in the Colony during the year was 256, the particulars being as follows :—

Port of Entry.	European and American.						Total.
	Br.	U.S.	Ger.	Pol.	Span.	Greek.	
Belize ...	36	14	3	1	1	1	56
Corozal ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	36	14	3	1	1	1	56

Port of Entry.	Asiatic.			Total.
	Syrian and Libanese.	Palestinian.	Indian.	
Belize	9	—	5	14
Corozal	—	—	—	—
Total	9	—	5	14

Port of Entry.	West Indian and Central American.				Total.	GRAND TOTAL
	Jamaican.	Other B.W.I.	Hond.	Mex.		
Belize ...	160	12	11	1	184	254
Corozal ...	—	—	—	2	2	2
Total ...	160	12	11	3	186	256

In addition, six officials arrived in the Colony during the year.

—	European and American.	Asiatic.	West Indian and Central American.	Total.
Professional Occupation	2	—	7	9
Mining	1	—	—	1
Commerce	7	7	6	20
Missionaries, etc. ...	18	—	5	23
Agriculture	3	4	70	77
Industrial and Skilled Workers.	6	1	6	13
Married Women and Children.	19	2	92	113
Total...	56	14	186	256

No record of emigration is kept.

IV.--HEALTH.

Quarantinable Disease.- During the year 1937 there were 56 cases of Variola Minor (Alastrim) distributed as follows:—Corozal District 51, Belize 2, Toledo 1, Stann Creek 2.

The Medical Officers vaccinated all contacts. The last case reported was in November.

Malaria.—This is an endemic and is responsible for a great deal of ill-health and morbidity amongst the population. The spleen rate in Belize town is 2·36 per cent.; Stann Creek 9·86 per cent.; Corozal 17·77 per cent.; Orange Walk 21·50 per cent.; Punta Gorda 28·99 per cent. Amongst the village schools, the highest recorded was 68 per cent. at the " Twenty Miles " School on the Stann Creek Railway.

Intestinal Parasites.—These are a potent source of ill-health, especially amongst the children. Hookworm Disease is a real social problem amongst the Spanish-Mayans.

Nutrition.—Nutritional diseases do occur especially during periods of economic depression but there has been a marked improvement in the economic conditions during the present year resulting in an improved state of nutrition, especially obvious amongst the children. A report on the question of Nutrition was drawn up by the Government during the year and will shortly be published. Problems of Agriculture, Economics and Social Customs in relation to Nutrition, were discussed.

Dysentery.—Both amoebic and bacillary forms are found, certain areas being endemic. No epidemics were reported.

Tuberculosis.—No accurate figures are available but sporadic cases are reported from all districts. The Rockefeller Foundation have accepted an invitation to do a tuberculosis survey with tuberculin tests early in 1938.

Cancer.—Several cases have been seen, chiefly amongst the Carib women; unfortunately the cases are usually too advanced to carry out any radical treatment.

Venereal Diseases.—These diseases are very prevalent in the Colony. Treatment is little sought for; late lesions being very common. A weekly clinic is working in Belize for luetic therapy and a few men avail themselves for daily treatment for gonorrhoea. Much work remains to be done to tackle this problem.

There is a modern X-ray plant working under a trained Radiologist. It is hoped to develop deep X-ray therapy in the near future.

The Laboratory has done invaluable work during the year, chiefly of a biochemical nature. Bacteriology will be developed during the coming year as the Rockefeller Foundation are considering the granting of a travel scholarship to the laboratory attendant for this purpose. The laboratory is being well utilized by the private practitioners in Belize.

Infant Welfare Clinics.—The Belize Clinic is still very active, the average attendance being 200 children a week. All the Districts have started clinics under the guidance of the Government Medical Officers with very satisfactory results.

Hospitals.—There are six hospitals in the Colony, one for each District. The hospital in the capital town, Belize contains 47 beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals ranges from 19 to six. In these hospitals, treatment is afforded for medical and surgical cases. Belize Hospital has a maternity block of 13 beds and 12 cots. A maternity block of four beds was added to Stann Creek Hospital this year. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3.00 a day for each person.

There is a big demand for treatment both as out-patients and in-patients. Owing to the shortage of beds in Belize, only acute cases are being accepted. At the present time, the surgery in the Colony is being done by the Government Medical Officers, the greater part of this work being done in Belize. The private ward accommodation is limited in all hospitals. Proposals have been put forward to re-build the Belize Hospital which is in a very bad state of repair and too small to meet the demand for beds. The district hospitals require a considerable amount of modernizing.

Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals, but accommodation is offered in the isolation huts attached to the Poor House for 12 destitute sufferers from this disease.

The Lunatic Asylum accommodating 75 inmates is being reorganized as to care of patients.

The prisons are visited daily by a Medical Officer.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in the charge of a Medical Officer under a Senior Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize Hospital, there is one English-trained Matron controlling a subordinate local nursing staff. At each District hospital, there is a locally recruited nursing staff under a locally trained nurse who has received her training at the Belize Hospital, extending over a period of not less than three years.

Pupil midwives receive a course of training in the Belize Maternity Wards. A scheme for bringing the district nurses into Belize Hospital for a refresher has been operating during the year.

The reorganization of the Medical Department is under consideration.

Considerable improvements have been made in Belize with the filling up of low-lying areas under and around the houses, free spoil being granted to indigent persons. The construction of street-drains has continued.

A new motor rubbish cart has been purchased. The two areas used for dumping rubbish are slowly being reclaimed. The question of slum clearance is having the close attention of the Town Board of which the Senior Medical Officer is a member.

The increased water supply of 2,377,330 gallons in six tanks has been a great boon to the community.

All water receptacles are inspected by Sanitary Inspectors of the Town Board, those not screened being stocked with larvivorous fish. The system of employing better educated helpers in dealing with anti-mosquito work has proved successful.

There has been a rigid enforcement of the by-laws relating to bakeries, restaurants, hotels and boarding houses, licences being withheld until the regulations are complied with.

The general sanitation of the town shows a marked improvement during the last few years.

The scavenging of the town of Belize and other towns in the Colony is performed by the Local Authority and under the direction of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The majority of householders in Belize empty their night soil utensils into the river and the canals which run through the town, or into the sea.

Individual septic tanks are becoming popular among the better-class residents, but there are too many houses where owing to lack of water, funds, or of space, water-closets are an impossibility. This being so, the emptying of utensils into the canals, while it may be unsightly and disagreeable, is far more sanitary than storage in pails or pits within the house or in close proximity to other houses. In the outlying towns conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages, methods of disposal of night-soil are extremely faulty.

V.—HOUSING.

In Belize, the population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about seven feet above the level of the ground, which is often low-lying, swampy and flooded. The work of the Town Board and the efforts of private individuals are gradually showing a marked improvement in this connexion; more especially is this so in the northern area—Freetown Area—where extensive filling-in has been done in connexion with the reclamation scheme, jointly financed by the Government and the Town Board. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping-room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing-room, kitchen or garage.

There were no building regulations before the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where and in whatever manner they liked. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back-yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in, and free space around, each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections.

The Public Health legislation was amended with the object of giving the Local Health Authority of Belize a greater scope in the control of the manufacture of foodstuffs and to empower medical examination of handlers and vendors of such foodstuffs; and also of empowering the Local Authority of Belize to enforce the building of latrines and/or water closets on each premises.

VI.—PRODUCTION.

The principal products of the Colony are:—

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, rosewood and logwood. Other hardwood species are occasionally cut for export and pine is utilized for the local market.

Other forest produce.—Chicle, hides and skins (which are chiefly crocodile) and cohune nuts.

Agricultural produce.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts and copra, maize, sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulses and rice.

Livestock.—Swine, cattle and poultry.

Marine.—Tortoiseshell, shark products, lobsters, sponges and fish of many varieties.

Forest produce, chiefly timber and chicle, forms the mainstay of the export trade in domestic produce, the proportions of the main types of produce for the 13 years 1924 to 1936 inclusive being shown below:—

Average for 1924—1936 inclusive.

Produce	*Value* $	*Percentage of total exports by value*
Forest produce	1,082,458	81·6
Agricultural produce	228,527	17·2
Marine and other produce	15,653	1·2

The value of produce exported in 1937 was as follows:

	$	*Percentage*
Forest produce	953,197	67·21
Agricultural produce	458,879	32·36
Marine and other produce	6,147	0·43

Comparison of these figures with the 13-year average shows that Marine produce is still very depressed at 39·3 per cent. of the average, Agricultural produce is still on the upward grade, at 200·8 per cent. of the average, owing chiefly to the continued boom in bananas, while Forest produce is emerging from long depression at 88·1 per cent. of the average.

Forest.

There was a considerable increase in demand for mahogany logs at a slightly increased price but weather conditions again prevented the filling of contracts. An unexpected dry spell in October and November enabled many contractors to retrieve weather-bound wood and in several cases work was commenced on 1938 contracts.

The Belize mill maintained its production of lumber, chiefly for the United Kingdom market, on a high standard of sawing and grading. This mill now supplies practically half of the total mahogany lumber imports into the London market and by far the greatest proportion of Swietenia or true mahogany lumber.

The following figures show the domestic exports of mahogany and cedar logs and lumber in the last three years:—

	1935. *1,000 s. ft.*	*1936.* *1,000 s. ft.*	*1937.* *1,000 s. ft.*
Mahogany logs exported... ...	1,913	4,843	5,112
Mahogany lumber exported ...	4,242	3,713	4,867
Cedar logs exported	196	247	219
Cedar lumber exported	52	46	68

The price of chicle rose slightly and exports have not varied greatly in the last few years. Re-exports from Mexico were nearer normal and the frontier with Peten remains closed.

The logwood exports decreased in volume in spite of a lowering of royalty rate and there appears to be no hope of any satisfactory revival in this trade. Rosewood exports increased.

A promising export trade was revived in cohune nuts, shipped whole to the United States of America. The local company which reaped and cracked the first harvest of nuts in 1936 now appears to be moribund.

No advance can be recorded in the development of the pine forests or in other timbers although many inquiries have been received.

Agriculture.

Weather conditions have been variable. The first half of the year was unusually wet but rain fell in short and very heavy spells. There was no well defined dry season. The latter half of the year on the other hand was phenomenally dry and the cold weather set in early and persisted. Very heavy rain fell, however, in October in most sections but the period of rain was very short. Hail was reported as having fallen in the Corozal District in May. High winds were experienced on a number of occasions particularly in July and August. Some damage was done to bananas, and in the north corn crops also suffered. August and September were very hot. October day temperatures were high but night temperatures low.

The Agricultural Settlement in the Rockstone Pond area mentioned last year was opened during March. Twenty-five settlers only took up land. Very good work has been done by the men and in many cases their families too. Most of them have reaped crops the surplus of which they have already offered for sale. A number of them have reached the stage of being almost self-supporting in such articles of diet as corn, vegetables and certain pulses.

Owing to the small number the settlement road work has not proceeded as rapidly as was anticipated. Useful instructional work has been possible because of the establishment of a demonstration plot in the Settlement. A large variety of food crops are being tried out and the suitable ones will be introduced into the settlers' scheme of planting in due course.

The Board of Agriculture continues to be a great help to planters. However, this year has been an extremely poor one and every little produce has been offered to the Board. Rice was scarce owing to the competition of banana growing. Corn, while fairly plentiful in most parts, the crop in the North was very poor. The corn purchased last year remained in good condition until September when the last of it was sold.

Rice being very short the two rice mills were used very little. The bulk of the rice milled was handled by the Punta Gorda Mill. During the year signs of a return to rice growing became evident and no effort is being spared to foster this return. A rice growing competition was held in the Toledo Settlement there being 26 entries. This had a stimulating effect. But the main reason for this more sane outlook is the result of the reduction in output of the banana farms due to disease and inferior soils. The indications of a good rice crop in 1938 are hopeful.

Banana growing continues to occupy the attention of the majority of planters in all sections of the country but in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts climatic and soil conditions prevent much expansion. The greatest increase has taken place in the vicinity of El Cayo, and nearby lands on the Belize River. It is in this area that the best possibilities exist in spite of difficult transportation. The work now in hand to improve the navigability of the Belize River will undoubtedly have a favourable reaction on the industry and agriculture generally. The Toledo banana industry has suffered many set-backs and throughout the district Panama disease is rapidly on the increase. The presence of Sigatoka Leaf disease, which since July has considerably increased in incidence and severity, also is having a very bad effect. In some sections it has reached the stage of reducing output. The output of the Stann Creek area is on the decrease as the result of disease but that of the Northern River and Santa Ana lands is on the increase although the fruit shipped from these parts is definitely of poor grade.

Exports of bananas and plantains are shown in the following table:—

	1935.		*1936.*		*1937.*	
		Value.		*Value.*		*Value.*
	Quantity.	$	*Quantity.*	$	*Quantity.*	$
Bananas, bunches	356,056	125,274	696,127	244,238	938,985	330,491
Plantains, number	162,560	1,007	198,200	2,314	272,600	2,228

Little variation took place from last year in the quantity of coconuts and copra shipped. There was a slight increase in the number of nuts exported but this increase would have been much greater had not the demand fallen off during the latter few months of the year. Usually the biggest demand for nuts is from September to mid-December and during this period prices advance. The exact opposite took place this year, no doubt due to the unsettled conditions in the East, and the demand fell to a negligible quantity and the price to the lowest for an appreciable time. In spite of this state of affairs more attention to care of plantations was taken during the year. On the whole yields were good. Exports are tabulated below:—

	1935.		*1936.*		*1937.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Coconuts, No.	6,589,320	96,515	4,310,110	63,930	4,938,980	76,907
Copra, lb. ...	5,230	52	425,996	10,456	357,708	10,975

The citrus industry suffered a poor year on the whole. The quantity of fruit available for export was below estimate. This is largely due to the effect of the drought of 1935 which made the 1935-6 crop late and as a result caused many of the young groves to bear prematurely. Most of the young groves that bore in 1935-6 did not fruit in 1936-7. Weather conditions throughout the year have not been very satisfactory but a fair crop is now maturing which will be ready for shipment early in 1938. Prices were quite good but mid-season fruit, especially Duncan, sold at a very low figure. Oranges sold in Canada gave a very poor return.

No fruit was shipped from the Corozal District but there are indications of a moderately large crop early in next year.

Considerable activity has been taking place in the planting of citrus not only in the Stann Creek and Corozal Districts but in other sections of the country. The most enthusiasm was shown, however, round Corozal as the result of the organization of the Corozal Producers' Association, Ltd.

The following table shows the exports during the last three years:—

	1935.		*1936.*		*1937.*	
	Quantity. *Cwts.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.* *Cwts.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.* *Cwts.*	*Value.* $
Grapefruit ...	15,450	32,280	18,781	41,177	14,280	31,430
Oranges	1,632	1,895	291	537	315¾	587
Tangerines and Mandarines	117	219	181	326	169½	315
Miscellaneous (Lemons, etc.)	—	—	—	—	15¼	28
Grapefruit, canned	352	2,014	1,416	8,381	804⅓	4,663
Grapefruit, juice...	42	156	612	2,703	26¾	140

The Corozal Sugar Factory successfully completed its first season. The amount of cane ground was 5,561 tons yielding approximately 416 tons of sugar. Considerable improvement is noticeable in the type of cultivation practised. Primitive methods are rapidly giving way to modern ways of tillage and handling. Improved varieties of cane are fast taking the place of inferior ones.

Again the interest taken in banana growing has had a bad effect on the production of grain and pulse crops in excess of the immediate requirements of the individual planters. Ground provisions were fairly plentiful but little interest was shown in peanut planting this year.

A number of new school gardens was started in the districts and good progress is reported.

Interest in livestock continues but development is handicapped by many obstacles. The importation of inferior cattle for slaughter persists in spite of the import duty of $6.00 per head. There is little excuse for this importation and few people benefit.

VII.—COMMERCE.

There was little change in the amount of either mahogany logs or lumber exported in 1937 as compared with the previous year. As in the past practically all of the lumber went to the United Kingdom and the bulk of the logs to the United States of America.

Exports of bananas again increased considerably and coconuts also showed a small increase. Chicle and grapefruit, both fresh and canned, decreased.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $6,583,849, which was more by $897,165 than the total of $5,686,684 in 1936.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table:—

	1933.	*1934.*	*1935.**	*1936.*	*1937.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	1,687,112	1,912,375	2,676,795	3,272,833	3,981,249
Exports	1,042,095	1,520,917	1,699,043	2,413,851	2,602,600
Trade	2,729,207	3,433,292	4,375,838	5,686,684	6,583,849

* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

The following table shows the percentages of trade with the Empire, and the United States of America and other foreign countries in 1937 compared with the trade of 1920:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1937.	1920.	1937.	1920.	1937.
United Kingdom and British Possessions	17·45	34·66	14·88	17·58	16·17	27·91
United States of America	60·44	31·06	78·18	66·61	69·31	45·11
Other Countries	22·11	34·28	6·94	15·81	14·52	26·98

Imports.

The imports in 1937 amounted to $3,981,249 as against $3,272,833 in 1936, an increase of $708,416. The direction of the import trade during the years 1933–1937 is shown in the following table :—

	1933.		1934.		1935.*		1936.		1937.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	418,511	24·81	466,733	24·40	731,396	27·32	872,252	26·65	873,759	21·94
Canada	326,433	19·35	200,610	10·49	263,719	9·85	268,679	8·21	325,993	8·19
Other British Possessions	48,578	2·88	49,675	2·60	105,370	3·93	129,463	3·95	180,258	4·53
United States of America	633,900	37·57	684,776	35·81	746,257	27·87	950,397	29·03	1,236,603	31·06
Mexico	78,978	4·67	284,344	14·87	528,529	19·74	734,273	21·82	900,176	22·61
Other Countries	180,712	10·72	226,237	11·83	301,524	11·29	317,769	10·34	464,460	11·67

* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

Exports.

Exports amounted to $2,602,600 in 1937 or $188,749 more than the total of $2,413,851 in 1936.

The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1933–1937 :—

	1933.		1934.		1935.*		1936.		1937.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	86,642	8·31	288,722	18·98	317,510	18·82	405,720	16·80	418,672	16·08
Canada	126,925	12·18	31,336	2·06	50,450	2·97	47,840	1·98	32,680	1·26
Other British Possessions	354,276	33·99	118,200	7·77	55,362	3·26	18,991	0·78	6,159	0·24
United States of America	377,742	36·25	953,131	61·48	1,059,394	62·35	1,583,475	65·59	1,733,640	66·61
Other Countries	96,510	9·27	129,528	9·71	216,327	12·60	357,825	14·85	411,449	15·81

Domestic exports amounted to $1,422,620, an increase of $68,052 over the 1936 total. Exports of mahogany logs and lumber amounted to 49·10 per cent. of the total.

* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the major exports for the last four years is given below:—

	1937.	*1936.*	*1935.**	*1934.*
Mahogany logs, cubic feet	426,037	403,547	159,500	183,479
Mahogany lumber, ,, ,,	305,605	310,043	353,567	206,445
Chicle, lb.	659,916	767,128	735,240	787,526
Bananas, bunches	938,985	696,127	356,056	293,293

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 423,219, an increase of 7,157 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	770	83,166	83,936
United States of America ...	200	39,916	40,116
Other	1,918	87,834	89,752
Total	2,888	210,916	213,804

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	714	79,484	80,198
United States of America ...	200	39,860	40,060
Other	1,498	87,659	89,157
Total	2,412	207,003	209,415

The total tonnage during the last five years was:—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1933	242,288	237,240	479,528
1934	247,914	243,335	491,249
1935*	202,654	204,523	407,177
1936	207,702	208,360	416,062
1937	213,804	209,415	423,219

VIII.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

Labour in British Honduras may be divided into two classes:—

(i) Agricultural (including the timber industry).
(ii) Industrial or skilled labour.

The average wage for agricultural labourers is about 65 cents per diem, including rations. Such labourers are engaged principally, on sugar, coconut, and banana plantations. The average hours of work are nine a day, with an hour for lunch. Labourers residing on plantations are usually provided with free quarters (huts).

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* The 1935 Report showed estimated figures. Actual figures have now been substituted.

The wages paid to industrial or skilled labour are as follows:—

Artisans from $1.25 to $1.75 a day; carpenters, shipwrights, painters and masons, from $1.25 to $2.50 a day.

In domestic service weekly wages, with board and lodging for housemaids vary from $1.25 to $2.50; for cooks from $1.00 to $2.50; laundresses from $1.00 to $2.00.

Labourers in the Public Works Department and the Stann Creek Railway are paid as follows:—

Unskilled labourers, $0.75 to $1.00 a day.
Artisans, $1.25 to $1.75 a day.

In the out-districts the scale of wages was slightly lower than in Belize, except in the case of unskilled labourers who received slightly higher wages from Government.

The following comparison between the staple foodstuffs of the average labourer and his wages is recorded:—

1 lb.	*Cents.*		*$*		*lb.*
Flour	= 04	... ...	0·75	a day	= 18·75
Rice	= 03½	... ...	0·75	,,	= 20
Beans	= 07	... ...	0·75	,,	= 10·71
Mess Pork	= 25	... ...	0·75	,,	= 3
Sugar	= 05	... ...	0·75	,,	= 15

The cost of living is moderate. The staple diet of labourers is rice, flour, sugar, beans, local root crops (including yams, cassava, etc.), peas, fresh and salt fish, pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit.

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows:—

In Belize—

In hotels—$2.00 to $3.00 a day.
In boarding-houses—$2.00 a day; $50.00 to $60.00 a month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding-houses available except at Corozal, where there are a few hotels. The cost of living generally is slightly higher than in Belize.

IX.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In consequence of a report made by Mr. B. H. Easter, M.B.E., Director of Education, Jamaica, in 1934 various changes have been made in the educational system of the Colony and others are under consideration. The system of elementary education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926 as amended by No. 38 of 1935). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is 67, 56 being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize, where a civilian is employed; in school areas where there are no constables or alcaldes the law is not applied.

With the assistance of a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, three Supervisors of Schools trained in the Jeanes system of adaptation of village schools to rural life began work in the Colony in 1937.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years of age, and are applied towards the salaries of the teaching staff of the schools, and the provision and upkeep of buildings and equipment.

The total grants for the year in respect of elementary education amounted to $70,934.44; average grant per head of average attendance in aided elementary schools was $10.11.

The total cost to the Government, including administration, was $79,734.58; average cost per head including administration charges $11.36.

There is a number of unaided elementary schools, both denominational and private, throughout the Colony.

No provision is made for technical education but instruction in handicrafts and domestic science is given to a limited number of children at three centres in Belize, and the teaching of agriculture is being encouraged in rural schools by instruction grants to teachers and by free grants of tools. There is a Government Industrial School in the Stann Creek Valley where training in agriculture and farming are the principal features.

Secondary education is provided in the following four schools conducted by the religious denominations:—St. Hilda's College for Girls (Anglican), St. Catherine's Academy for Girls (Roman Catholic), St. George's College for Boys (Joint Methodist and Anglican) and St. John's College for Boys (Roman Catholic); kindergarten departments for boys as well as girls are conducted in connection with St. Hilda's College and St. Catherine's Academy. These schools prepare their pupils for the Local Examinations of the University of Cambridge. They receive Government aid in the form of scholarships, 10 of which were provided by Government at each school during 1937, their total value being $2,200.

Particulars as to the enrolment and attendance of the various kinds of school are:—

Kind of School.	*No.*	*Enrolment.*			*Pupils in Average Attendance.*		
		Boys.	*Girls.*	*Total.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*
Aided Elementary ...	78	4,726	4,333	9,059	3,677	3,339	7,016
Unaided Elementary ...	28	463	509	972	370	405	775
Secondary	4	159	297	456	150	270	420
Total ...	110	5,348	5,139	10,487	4,197	4,014	8,211

There are no universities or university scholarships. Evening classes are held at St. John's College, both classical and commercial courses being given; evening classes for elementary school teachers are also conducted, by the Government.

There is no orphanage. There are two Government poorhouses, one for men and the other for women.

Outdoor relief for a certain number of indigent persons is paid from the Treasury at a weekly rate of about $160. These payments are made, mainly, to aged and infirm persons who can no longer secure employment and are usually disbursed to mothers who have no means of supporting their children.

A society known as "The Woman's Auxiliary", in connection with the Anglican Church, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society, in connection with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Methodist Women's League assist indigent persons. In addition, each Church has its poor fund. The Salvation Army has a men's hostel and provides night lodging at cheap rates to sailors and others. There are several Friendly Societies that insure their members against sickness and death.

The British Honduras Infant Welfare League continued to do good work during 1937. The matron of the public hospital has been the Superintendent of the Belize Clinic since 1932, and is assisted by several ladies of the community. The League is supported by voluntary contributions.

There are several social clubs, the principal being the Polo Club, the Golf Club and Newtown Club, all in Belize.

There are cricket, tennis and football competitions. Basketball and baseball are also played.

There are several musical associations and Band Concerts are given, periodically, at the War Memorial Park, in Belize.

X.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Except for traffic between the District of Cayo and the Peten District of Guatemala where carriage is by mules, internal transport in the Colony is carried on mostly by means of its many rivers (in motor-boats, pit-pans and doreys), but there is also a frequent passenger and freight air service between Belize and

Cayo furnished by the Transportes Aereos Centro-Americanos (TACA) which has an airplane stationed in Belize for the purpose.

With a grant from the Colonial Development Fund one main road is being constructed from Punta Gorda (Toledo District) to the Indian town of San Antonio, a distance of about 21 miles. Of this road, 13 miles have already been completed and are open to traffic throughout the year. Another main road under construction is that from Belize to Corozal via the town of Orange Walk, a total distance of 99 miles; 70 miles are now open to motor traffic. In connexion with this road a bridge of reinforced concrete has been built across the Belize River at Haulover, about 5 miles from Belize.

In addition to the above about 50 miles of " dry-weather " road has been built from Belize towards Cayo, but another 40 miles must be constructed before this frontier town can be reached from the capital by motor transport. Fourteen miles of this road (Belize to Boom) is being improved into an all-weather road and the 5 miles of causeway—Belize to the Haulover Bridge—is being widened from a minimum width of 11 ft. to 16 ft.; the cost being met by a Colonial Development Fund grant.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs 25 miles inland through very fertile country. This is shortly to be converted from a railway to a road.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tramcar or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by motor-cars, and of goods by motor-trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service between Belize and New Orleans weekly via Puerto Barrios, about once every three weeks via Cuba and Jamaica and approximately once a month direct by ships of the United Fruit Company. Small schooners provide a somewhat irregular service between Belize and Tampa, Florida, and New Orleans.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool, and ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Line from Amsterdam, via the West Indies, call about once a month.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics by both steamers and sailing vessels.

A weekly air mail and passenger service through Mexico to Miami, Florida, is provided by the planes of the Pan American

Airways, Incorporated, and a similar service is maintained between Belize and the Republic of Honduras, Guatemala and other southern points by planes of the " Taca " Company.

There are 28 post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1937 was 950,000. Money and postal order business amounting to $62,015 internal and $65,838 foreign was done in 1937.

There are 72 telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Payo Obispo, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City and New Orleans, United States of America. During the year 1937 the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 5,658, and the number received was 5,548. The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports or Press messages.

XI.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former. Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue. There is a Government Savings Bank with deposits totalling $417,252 at the end of the year.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4·86 and $2·43, respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America circulate freely. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners.

On the 21st April, 1933, an Ordinance was assented to providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, the silver coins of the Colony shall be legal tender in the Colony for all purposes and to any amount. A suspending clause provides for the bringing into operation of the Ordinance, by Proclamation, on such day as the Governor shall direct and appoint.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use:—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	$2\frac{1}{2}$ quarts or $\frac{1}{2}$ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the Police, who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In addition to construction and maintenance of Public Buildings and public works in general, there has been under construction during the year several miles of roads in almost every district of the Colony. Of other public works carried out during the year, the construction of a reinforced concrete building to accommodate three Government Departments was completed as well as a building for the Police Barracks and Armoury.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law" passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed "District Courts") are established in each of the six magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights, and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences (excluding petty misdemeanours and petty offences) before the courts of the Colony during the year:—

Persons charged by police	1,309	
,, ,, otherwise	30	
		1,339
Convicted summarily	971	
Acquitted summarily	319	
Committed to Supreme Court	49	
		1,339
Convicted by Supreme Court	27	
Acquitted	5	
Nolle prosequi	15	
Adjourned to 1938	2	
		49

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of three officers and 118 other ranks. There are 22 stations in the Colony, 18 of which are in telephonic communication.

The police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulation and signals. Applicants for motor driver's licences are examined by the Police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward.

The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells each of approximately 700 cubic feet. In each of the five districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lock-ups. That of the Corozal District is the largest and is surrounded by concrete walls. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize prison. The District prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under 16 who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. A Probation Officer has been appointed under the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932 (No. 7 of 1932), and the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1934 (No. 31 of 1934). The general health of the prisoners at the Belize prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Twenty Ordinances were passed during the year, of which the under-mentioned are the more important:—

No. 1 of 1937.—*The British Honduras Currency Notes Ordinance.*—To make provision with respect to the Currency Notes of the Colony and to place the issue of such Currency Notes upon a permanent basis.

No. 6 of 1937.—*The Charitable Lotteries Ordinance.*—To permit the holding of Public Lotteries for charitable and philanthropic purposes by the British Honduras Charitable Trusts, Ltd.

No. 10 of 1937.—*The Customs and Excise Duties (Amendment) Ordinance.*—Validating certain Resolutions by the Legislative Council, one of which (until 15th May, 1937) levied a prohibitive rate of duty on certain articles, of non-empire origin, of a decorative nature imported for use in connexion with the Coronation of Their Majesties the King and the Queen.

No. 12 of 1937.—*The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance.*—Exemption from Income Tax gains or profits arising from the business of shipping carried on by a person not resident in the Colony; provided that the Governor is satisfied that an equivalent exemption is granted by the country in which such person is resident to persons resident in the Colony, and, if that country is a country other than the United Kingdom, to persons resident in the United Kingdom.

No. 17 of 1937.—*The Petroleum (Production) Ordinance.*—To vest in the Crown the property in petroleum and natural gas within British Honduras and to make provision with respect to the searching and boring for and getting of petroleum and natural gas, and for purposes connected with the matters aforesaid.

XV.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year of the Colony comprises the period 1st January to 31st December.

The revenue for the Colony for the year ended 31st December, 1937, was $1,188,536. This sum excludes the loan-in-aid from Imperial Funds amounting to $36,675 and payments from the Colonial Development and Loan Funds totalling $360,104.

The revenue for the preceding year, excluding $147,300 from Imperial Funds and $458,148 paid from the Colonial Development and Loan Funds was $992 092.

The total expenditure for the year 1937 was $1,187,364 excluding $378,421 in respect of Colonial Development Fund grants and Loan Works.

The totals of "true" revenue and expenditure (i.e., excluding Colonial Development Fund monies and the Loan-in-Aid) for the last six years are given below:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1932–33	809,131 (*a*)	918,836 (*g*)
1933–34	945,342 (*b*)	934,510 (*h*)
1934 (9 months)	510,477 (*c*)	791,899 (*i*)
1935	825,183 (*d*)	1,085,943 (*j*)
1936	992,092 (*e*)	1,077,937 (*k*)
1937	1,188,536 (*f*)	1,187,364 (*l*)

(*a*) Excludes $68,600 loan-in-aid and $15,985 from the Colonial Development Fund, but includes $26,056 receipts from German Reparations, and grant in connexion with 1931 Hurricane of $18,950.

(*b*) Excludes $103,600 loan-in-aid and $7,292 from the Colonial Development Fund, but includes $260,250 for investments realized, appreciation of investments and transfer of Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

(*c*) Excludes loan-in-aid $99,600 and $17,424 from the Colonial Development Fund.

(*d*) Excludes loan-in-aid $251,550 and receipts from the Colonial Development Fund amounting to $115,954.

(*e*) Excludes loan-in-aid $147,300 and receipts from Colonial Development and Loan Funds $458,148.

(*f*) Excludes loan-in-aid $36,675 and receipts from Colonial Development Fund and Loan Funds amounting to $360,104.

(*g*) Excludes $22,148 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*h*) Excludes $23,722 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*i*) Excludes $24,912 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*j*) Excluding $256,013 for Colonial Development Fund Works, but includes $75,501 due to the abolition of certain Boards.

(*k*) Excluding $299,201 for Colonial Development Fund Works and $11,577 for loan works.

(*l*) Excludes $378,421 for Colonial Development Fund and Loan Works.

It is worthy of note that the year 1937 was the first since 1930-1 that True Revenue exceeded True Expenditure.

At the close of the year the public debt stood at $3,346,379. The total of the accumulated sinking fund towards redemption of the funded portion of debt was $466,544.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets, which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and Company loans and cash in hand, amounted at 31st December, 1937, to a total of $692,239. The main liability was:—

Savings Bank, $428,730.

There is a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with a balance of $12,881. The difference is made up of sundry deposits.

TAXATION.

The main heads of taxation are:—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duties.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income Tax.
5. Licences, Banks, and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rent.

Customs Import Duties are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 12½ per cent. and 25 per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs, respectively. There is a package tax of 10 cents per package.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported other than those produced locally.

Excise Duty at the rate of $3.00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and intended for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 1½ cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of 8½ cents an acre if within one mile of the Railway or 4 cents if within two miles.

The *Income Tax* rate is low, the tax on chargeable incomes up to $30,000 being 7·3 per cent. only.

Fines of Court are casual; and *Estate Duty* is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every $50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years:—

	1933–34.	*1934.**	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import, and Export Duties.	376,227	265,103	404,966	494,905	528,692
Excise Duties	34,816	35,343	50,681	59,192	75,323
Land Tax...	27,431	13,607	30,845	32,504	38,945
Income Tax	10,539	6,515	26,520	21,869	24,425
Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies.	1,034	130	1,114	1,052	1,072
Fines of Courts	2,126	2,517	2,922	4,665	6,026
Estate Duty	2,874	4,658	456	1,008	3,572
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.	8,251	4,877	9,001	11,868	13,432
Warehouse Rent ...	18,033	8,869	14,923	16,877	19,520

* 9 months April to December, 1934.

XVI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the calendar year 1937, 38 applications to lease town, and 37 to lease village lots were approved and taken up. Two hundred and eighty-eight acres of land were leased to eight applicants, including three grazing leases comprising 250 acres. Three thousand eight hundred and fifteen acres were sold to 191 applicants under Location Tickets and subject to conditions as to cultivation and payment by semi-annual instalments. Nine town and village lots were also sold to four applicants.

Free grants were approved for a total area of 578 acres in 30 parcels in respect of service in the Defence Force. Three town and village lots were approved for religious and educational purposes.

One title for a town lot and four titles for 60,214 acres of agricultural land were issued including an area of 60,100 exchanged for an estate of 35,738 acres the property of the Belize Estate and Produce Company, Ltd. Forty-five Location Tickets were cancelled for non-payment of instalments and at request of the settlers.

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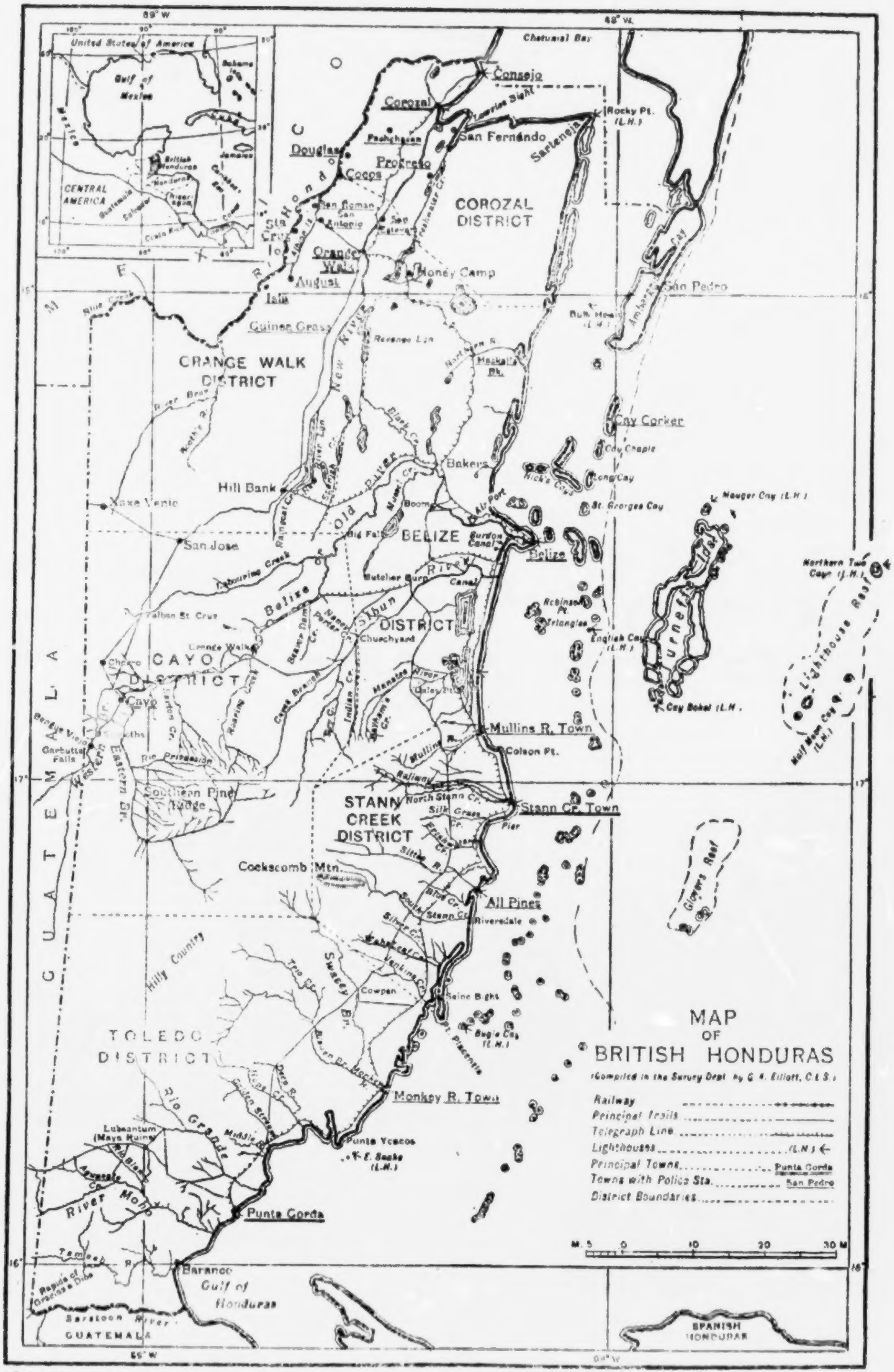
MAP
OF
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(Compiled in the Survey Dept. by G. A. Elliott, C.L.S.)
Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.)
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
M. 5 0 10 20 30 M
COROZAL DISTRICT
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
BELIZE DISTRICT
CAYO DISTRICT
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
TOLEDO DISTRICT
GUATEMALA
MEXICO
SPANISH HONDURAS
Gulf of Honduras
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
San Fernando
Sarteneja
Rocky Pt. (L.H.)
Douglas
Progreso
Cocos
Orange Walk
August
Honey Camp
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Guinea Grass
Cay Corker
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Bakers
Belize
Turneffe Isd.
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Lighthouse Reef
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Cayo
Mullins R. Town
Colson Pt.
Stann Cr. Town
Glovers Reef
Cockscomb Mtn.
All Pines
Riverdale
Monkey R. Town
Punta Ycacos
Lubaantum (Maya Ruins)
Rio Grande
River Moho
Punta Gorda
Barranco
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Continued on page 3 of cover

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS OF THE PEOPLE OF BRITISH HONDURAS, 1938

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I.—GEOGRAPHY, CLIMATE, AND HISTORY.

Geography.

British Honduras lies on the Atlantic side of the mainland of Central America within 18° 29′ 5″ to 15° 53′ 55″ North latitude and 89° 9′ 22″ to 88° 10′ West longitude.

The Colony is bounded on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the north and north-west by Mexico, and on the west and south-west by Guatemala. The frontier with Mexico follows the course of the River Hondo; that with Guatemala follows the course of the River Sarstoon on the south, continuing by a line drawn from the Gracias a Dios Falls, on the River Sarstoon, to Garbutt's Falls on the Belize River, and from Garbutt's Falls due north to the Mexican frontier. The greatest length of the Colony is about 174 miles and the greatest width about 68 miles. The total area is 8,598 square miles. The Colony is therefore about one-sixth the size of England, nearly twice the size of Jamaica, and about two-thirds the size of the whole of the British West Indian Islands put together.

A number of "cays" and reefs lie off the mainland of the Colony at varying distances from the coast, in an almost continuous line from the point of the Yucatan peninsular to the southern boundary of the Colony. The largest of these are Ambergris Cay and Cay Caulker, while the Turneffe group of cays covers a large area.

Near the coast the land is low and swampy, but gradually rises inland. The northern half of the Colony is low-lying, but further south the country is hilly and even mountainous, rising in the Cockscomb Range to a height of 3,700 ft. The Colony is well watered, and its numerous rivers provide the chief means of communication. The soil is rich and well adapted to the growth of tropical produce.

Climate.

The climate of British Honduras compares favourably with that of other tropical countries. Europeans leading a normal life and taking ordinary precautions will find the climate of British Honduras pleasant and healthy. The average rainfall at Belize was 84·99 ins. for the last five years.

The extremes of temperature and the rainfall at Belize for the last 10 years were as follows:—

	Extremes of temperature.				*Year's Rainfall.*
		F°		F°	*inches.*
1938 ...	13th October ...	90	27th January ...	50	81·20
1937 ...	30th August ...	90·5	3rd January ...	54	74·34
1936 ...	15th June... ...	91	17th December ...	56	114·04
1935 ...	4th September ...	91	6th February ...	51	64·16
1934 ...	16th April... ...	93	13th December ...	56	91·21
1933 ...	5th May	91·5	1st January ...	61·5	73·03
1932 ...	15th September ...	93	21st November ...	59	67·36
1931 ...	12th May	89	22nd January ...	51	120·23
1930 ...	27th May— 7th September ...	89	24th December ...	59	84·73
1929 ...	28th September ...	90	30th January ...	57	113·57

History.

It is thought that Columbus discovered the coast about 1502, when on his way from Cuba to find a passage to the Indies. The country first became known to Englishmen about 1638. It is probable that settlers from Jamaica visited the country and, finding logwood abundant and easily accessible, established themselves in what is now British Honduras. Within a very short time of their arrival they must have come in contact with the Spaniards and Indians of Yucatan and the Peten district of Guatemala. There are records of many conflicts between them and, as England was frequently at war with Spain in those days, such conflicts were natural. Even after the Thirty Years' War had ended in Europe, and Spain was our ally against France, there was fighting between the subjects of the King of England and those of the King of Spain in Central America. The Spaniards made frequent attempts to expel the Englishmen and their slaves, but in 1670 Spain ceded in perpetuity to Great Britain all lands in the West Indies or in any part of America held by the English at the time. The population of the British settlement in and near Belize, the chief town, included at this date 700 white settlers, among whom was the famous Admiral John Benbow. By 1671, the settlement had grown so prosperous that it was reported to King Charles II by the Governor of Jamaica as having " increased His Majesty's Customs and the natural commerce more than any of His Majesty's Colonies ". This was no doubt due to the great value of logwood and mahogany.

By 1713, there was a settled form of government carried on by magistrates elected by the inhabitants. In 1717, the Board of Trade asserted the absolute right of Great Britain to cut logwood. In the next year the Spaniards made a determined effort to conquer the settlement and got as far as " Spanish Lookout " on the Belize River, which they fortified. In 1754, another attempt was made by the Spaniards and defeated " principally by slaves ", at Labouring Creek. In 1779, St. George's Cay was attacked and a great many settlers were captured, ill-treated, and carried off to Merida and thence to Havana, but were subsequently allowed to return. In 1786, by the Treaty of London, Great Britain agreed with Spain to give up the Mosquito Coast in exchange for the settlement from the Belize River to the Sibun, including the lands lying between the two rivers, and St. George's Cay, but this was not agreeable to the Spaniards, and they continued their attacks from Mexico until finally defeated on the 10th September, 1798, at St. George's Cay, after trying for a century and a half to expel the British.

In the year 1849 the Indians in Yucatan rebelled against their Spanish oppressors, and many Spaniards were driven across the Hondo and settled in the northern half of British Honduras. From the year 1867, when Mexico declared itself a republic and threw off the yoke of Spain, until the year 1872, the Indians of Yucatan made repeated raids into the Colony.

II.—GOVERNMENT.

The first settlers, from 1638 to 1786, managed their own affairs. Persons were annually elected to act as magistrates, at public meetings held for that purpose. These magistrates discharged all executive and judicial functions. Resolutions were passed at public meetings and they formed the laws binding on the community. The King, in 1765, gave a " constitution to the people ", founded on their ancient customs, viz., " legislating by public meetings, and the election of magistrates annually by the free suffrage of the people ". This, it may be remarked, was the freest constitution ever enjoyed by, or granted to, a British settlement.

Admiral Sir William Burnaby was then sent to the settlement to make the necessary arrangements, and the inhabitants were put in full possession of their lands and rights. Captain Cook, the celebrated navigator, accompanied Sir William Burnaby, who codified the laws and customs of the settlement, which were afterwards published and known as " Burnaby's Laws ".

In 1786, a Superintendent was appointed by the Home Government, but during the years 1791 to 1797 elected magistrates again ruled the settlement. From this latter date Superintendents were regularly appointed until 1862. An Executive Council was established in 1840 to assist the Superintendent, and in 1853 a Legislative Assembly was formally constituted, consisting of eighteen elected and three nominated members. The settlement was declared a Colony on 12th May, 1862, and a Lieutenant-Governor was appointed subordinate to the Governor of Jamaica. In 1870, the Legislative Assembly was abolished by a local enactment and a Legislative Council substituted therefor, consisting of five official and not less than four unofficial members, with the Lieutenant-Governor as President. From 1913 to 1936 the Council consisted of six official and seven unofficial members.

On the 31st of October, 1884, Letters Patent were proclaimed constituting the office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief, which rendered the Colony independent of Jamaica. These were renewed by Letters Patent proclaimed on the 10th of September, 1909.

On the 11th January, 1936, by Proclamation, the British Honduras Constitution Ordinance, 1935, as amended by Ordinance No. 18 of 1935, was brought into operation. This

Ordinance is entitled " An Ordinance to provide for the Constitution and Legislative Council of the Colony " and provides for the determination of the old Legislative Council and substitutes a Legislative Council consisting of the Governor as President, five official members and seven unofficial members of whom two shall be nominated by the Governor and five elected for four constituencies. The new Council met for the first time on 12th March, 1936. By Ordinance No. 21 of 1938 the number of the constituencies was increased from four to five and the number of elected members from five to six.

All questions are decided by the majority of the votes given, the Governor or presiding member having an original vote, and, if the votes shall be equally divided, also a casting vote. " Provided that if the Governor shall consider it necessary—

> (i) in the interests of public order, public faith, or other essentials of good government, including the responsibilities of the Colony as a component part of the British Empire;
>
> or
>
> (ii) to secure (within the scope of the Bill, motion, resolution or vote concerned) detailed control of the finances of the Colony during such time as, by virtue of receipt of financial assistance by the Colony from His Majesty's Exchequer for the purpose of balancing the annual budget or otherwise, such control rests with His Majesty's Government;

that any Bill, motion, resolution or vote proposed for the decision of the Council should have effect, then if the Council fails to pass such Bill, motion, resolution or vote within such time as he may think reasonable and expedient, the Governor at any time within his discretion may, notwithstanding any provison to the contrary declare that any such Bill, motion, resolution or vote shall have effect, and thereupon the same shall have effect as if it had been passed by the Council."

The Executive Council consists of the Governor and three *ex officio* members, and of such other persons as may from time to time be appointed with His Majesty's approval. At the close of the year under review there were five nominated members, of whom four were non-officials.

For administrative purposes the Colony is divided into five Districts: Belize, which includes the capital, at the mouth of the river of the same name; the Northern District, with headquarters at Corozal; the Cayo District; the Stann Creek District, and the Toledo District, the main station of which is Punta Gorda, in the south of the Colony. A Commissioner is appointed to each District, other than Belize, who exercises the usual judicial functions of that office as prescribed by law, and is also *ex officio* Sub-Treasurer of his District, Sub-Collector of Customs, District Postmaster, and Chairman of the local nominated District Boards.

III.—POPULATION.

The population of the Colony at the end of 1938 was estimated at 57,767, and consisted of 28,514 males and 29,253 females. Owing to intermixing racial classification of the population is difficult and unreliable, but the Northern District is inhabited principally by the descendants of the Spanish and Maya peoples. The Stann Creek District is peopled, in the main, by Caribs, while in the Toledo District Caribs and Mayas predominate. In the Cayo District are Guatemaltecans, Mexicans and a few Syrians. In the capital the " Creoles " (descendants of the early settlers) are in the majority, but there is also a large number of people of Latin extraction from the neighbouring republics, and Syrians and Chinese. There is a limited number of Europeans and United States citizens.

The population was distributed in the Districts of the Colony as follows:—

District.	*Persons.*	*Area in Square Miles.*	*Persons per Square Mile.*
Belize	22,443	1,623	13·82
Northern	14,932	2,180	6·84
Stann Creek ...	6,425	840	7·64
Toledo	6,429	2,125	3·02
Cayo	7,538	1,830	4·11
Colony	57,767	8,598	6·71

The following table gives the number of births, deaths, marriages and the infantile mortality for 1938 with comparative figures for the previous three years:—

	Births.		*Deaths.*		*Marriages.*		*Infantile Mortality.*	
Year.	*No.*	*Per cent.*	*No.*	*Per cent.*	*No.*	*Per cent.*	*No. of deaths under 1 year.*	*Per cent. of live births.*
1935 ...	2,081	3·75	1,377	2·48	370	0·67	354	17·01
1936 ...	1,879	3·35	1,256	2·24	436	0·77	287	15·27
1937 ...	1,876	3·29	1,054	1·85	467	0·82	231	12·31
1938 ...	2,052	3·55	1,178	2·03	447	0·77	257	12·52

The total number of non-official immigrants arriving at ports in the Colony during the year was 193, the particulars being as follows :—

Port of Entry.	*European, American and Asiatic.*								*West Indian, Central and South American.*					
	British.	*American.*	*German.*	*Spaniard.*	*Palestinian.*	*Syrian or Libanese.*	*Roumanian.*	*Asiatic.*	*Jamaican.*	*Other West Indian.*	*Honduranean.*	*Guatemalan.*	*Other Central or South American.*	*Total.*
Belize	16	13	9	1	2	5	8	2	92	9	21	7	8	193
Engaged in Professional occupation ...	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	
Engaged in commerce ...	—	—	1	—	1	3	3	1	2	—	—	—	1	
Industrial and skilled labour	—	8	2	1	—	—	—	—	11	2	2	5	—	
Missionaries and members of religious societies ...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	
Engaged in agriculture ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	50	—	1	—	—	
Married women and children	13	1	5	—	—	2	3	—	25	5	18	2	6	
Totals ...	16	13	9	1	2	5	8	2	92	9	21	7	8	193

In addition, ten officials arrived in the Colony during the year.

IV.—HEALTH.

Quarantinable Diseases.—During the year 1938 there were outbreaks of Alastrim in El Cayo and Corozal Districts and a sporadic case in Stann Creek. All contacts were vaccinated and re-vaccinated.

Rabies.—There was an outbreak of Rabies in Belize. Two children died, 40 persons received anti-rabies treatment. The disease spread to Stann Creek and Punta Gorda, at the latter place the cattle and horses became affected. The Muzzling Order was imposed in all towns.

Malaria.—This is endemic and is responsible for a great deal of morbidity amongst the population. The spleen rate in Belize town is 2·36 per cent.; Stann Creek 9·86 per cent.; Corozal 17·77 per cent.; Orange Walk 21·50 per cent.; Punta Gorda 28·99 per cent.

Intestinal Parasites.—These are a potent source of ill-health, especially amongst the children. Hookworm Disease is a real social problem amongst the Spanish-Mayans.

Nutrition.—Nutritional diseases do occur especially during periods of economic depression but there has been a continued improvement in the economic conditions during the present year resulting in an improved state of nutrition, especially obvious amongst the children. A report on the question of Nutrition has been drawn up by the Government and published in London.* Problems of Agriculture, Economics and Social Customs in relation to Nutrition are discussed.

Dysentery.—Both amoebic and bacillary forms are found, certain areas being endemic. No epidemics were reported.

Tuberculosis.—No accurate figures are available but sporadic cases are reported from all districts. The Rockefeller Foundation made a survey of 4,284 children in Belize and in the districts. In Belize the proportion of positive reactions to a Tuberculin test ranged from 68·9 per cent. to 89 per cent. The lowest rate of 51·7 per cent. was in a Maya Indian village and the highest, 89 per cent. was found in a Belize school.

Cancer.—Several cases have been seen, chiefly amongst the Carib women; unfortunately the cases are usually too advanced to carry out any radical treatment.

Venereal Diseases.—These diseases are very prevalent in the Colony. Treatment is little sought for; late lesions being very common. A bi-weekly clinic is working in Belize for luetic therapy and a few men avail themselves for daily treatment for gonorrhoea. A separate clinic for women has been started.

Radiology and Electro-Therapy.—There is a modern X-ray plant working under a trained Radiologist. It is hoped to develop deep X-ray therapy in the near future.

An electro-therapy apparatus has been added to the Department.

The Laboratory has done invaluable work during the year, chiefly of a biochemical nature. Bacteriology will be developed during the coming year. The laboratory is being well utilized by the private practitioners in Belize.

Infant Welfare Clinics.—Belize has now got two clinics per week, one on the South side and the other on the North side of the Town. On an average 200 children are seen each week. All the Districts have started clinics under the guidance of the Government Medical Officers with very satisfactory results.

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* "A Report of the Committee on Nutrition in the Colony of British Honduras" — November, 1937, published by the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, London, S.W. 1. Price 5/-.

Hospitals.—There are six hospitals in the Colony, one for each District. The hospital in the capital town, Belize, contains 47 beds. The number of beds in the other hospitals ranges from 19 to six. In these hospitals, treatment is afforded for medical and surgical cases. Belize Hospital has a maternity block of 13 beds and 12 cots. A maternity block of four beds was added to Stann Creek Hospital this year. The poor and indigent receive free treatment in all the hospitals. For other classes the fees range from 25 cents to $3.00 a day for each person.

There is a big demand for treatment both as out-patients and in-patients. Owing to the shortage of beds in Belize, only acute cases are being accepted. At the present time, the surgery in the Colony is being done by the Government Medical Officers, the greater part of this work being done in Belize, 365 operations having been performed in 1938.

It is hoped to start re-building the Belize Hospital in 1939, owing to its bad state of repair and lack of available accommodation of the present buildings.

The district hospitals require a considerable amount of modernizing.

Cases of tuberculosis are ordinarily not received for treatment in the hospitals, but accommodation is offered in the isolation huts attached to the Poor House for 12 destitute sufferers from this disease.

The Lunatic Asylum accommodating 75 inmates is being reorganized as to care of patients.

The prisons are visited daily by a Medical Officer.

Each District and each hospital of the Colony is in the charge of a Medical Officer under a Senior Medical Officer who is *ex officio* Medical Officer of Health for the entire Colony. In the Belize Hospital, there is one English-trained Matron controlling a subordinate local nursing staff, and an English Nursing Sister appointed in July, 1938. At each District hospital, there is a locally recruited nursing staff under a trained nurse who has received her training at the Belize Hospital, the course extending over a period of not less than three years.

Pupil midwives receive a course of training in the Belize Maternity Wards. A scheme for bringing the district nurses into Belize Hospital for a refresher has been operating during the year.

The reorganization of the Medical Department is under consideration.

Considerable improvements have been made in Belize with the filing up of low-lying areas under and around houses, free spoil being granted to indigent persons. The construction of street-drains has continued.

The two areas used for dumping rubbish are slowly being reclaimed. The question of slum clearance is having the close attention of the Town Board.

The increased water supply of 2,377,330 gallons in six tanks has been a great boon to the community.

All water receptacles are inspected by Sanitary Inspectors, those not screened being stocked with larvivorous fish. The system of employing better educated helpers in dealing with anti-mosquito work has proved successful.

There has been a rigid enforcement of the by-laws relating to bakeries, restaurants, hotels and boarding houses, licences being withheld until the regulations are complied with.

The general sanitation of the town shows a marked improvement during the last few years.

The scavenging of the town of Belize and other towns in the Colony is under the direction of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The majority of householders in Belize empty their night soil utensils into the river and the canals which run through the town, or into the sea.

Individual septic tanks are becoming popular among the better-class residents, but there are too many houses where owing to lack of water, funds, or of space, water-closets are an impossibility. This being so, the emptying of utensils into the canals, while it may be unsightly and disagreeable, is far more sanitary than storage in pails or pits within the house or in close proximity to other houses. In the outlying towns conditions are fairly satisfactory, but in the remote country villages, methods of disposal of night-soil are extremely faulty.

A fully trained Jamaican Sanitary Inspector was appointed for Belize during the year.

V.—HOUSING.

In Belize, the population live in wooden houses with galvanized iron roofs, standing usually on wooden piles about 7 feet above the level of the ground, which is often low-lying, swampy and flooded. The work of the Town Board and the efforts of private individuals are gradually showing a marked improvement in this connection; more especially is this so in the Mesopotamia and Freetown areas, where extensive filling-in has been done in connection with the reclamation scheme, jointly financed by the Government and the Town Board. It is unusual to find the ground floor used as a sleeping-room. It is generally used as a store-room, washing-room, kitchen or garage.

There were no building regulations before the year 1928. In consequence, householders erected houses how, where and in whatever manner they liked. Often, therefore, collections of small tenement houses are found packed together without order in the back-yards of houses of a better class and decent appearance facing the street. Building regulations have now been passed designed to prevent this and to provide that there should be sufficient ventilation in, and free space around, each house. These regulations, however, apply only to new erections.

The Public Health legislation was amended with the object of giving the Local Health Authority of Belize a greater scope in the control of the manufacture of foodstuffs and to empower medical examination of handlers and vendors of such foodstuffs; and also of empowering the Local Authority of Belize to enforce the building of latrines and/or water closets on each premises.

A Slum Clearance Committee was appointed during the year.

VI.—NATURAL RESOURCES.

The principal products of the Colony are:—

Timber.—Mahogany, cedar, rosewood and logwood. Other hardwood species are cut occasionally for export in log form and pine is sawn on a small scale for the local market.

Other forest produce.—Chicle, hides and skins (which are chiefly crocodile) and cohune nuts.

Agricultural produce.—Bananas, plantains, citrus fruits, coconuts and copra, maize, sugar and rum, vegetables, root crops, pulses and rice.

Livestock.—Swine, cattle and poultry.

Marine.—Tortoise shell, shark products, lobsters, sponges and fish of many varieties.

Forest produce, chiefly timber and chicle, is still the mainstay of the export trade in domestic produce, the proportions of the main types of produce for the 14 years 1924 to 1937 inclusive being shown below:—

Produce	*Value* $	*Percentage of total exports by value*
Forest produce	1,073,225	80·5
Agricultural produce	244,980	18·4
Marine and other produce ...	14,974	1·1

The value of produce exported in 1938 was as follows:—

	Value $	*Percentage*
Forest produce	1,369,460	75·70
Agricultural produce	435,766	24·09
Marine and other produce ...	3,769	0·21

Comparison of these values with the 14-year average shows that Marine produce is still very depressed. Agricultural produce, due to the continued boom in bananas, is far above its average, while Forest produce, after a slow recovery has now reached the average for the period.

Examination of the annual export values since 1924 shows that Marine produce has been below average for ten years, Forest produce for eight years, while Agricultural produce after a five-year period of depression has been above the average for the last four years.

Forest.

There was an increased demand for mahogany logs, the price remaining constant, and weather conditions were very favourable for extraction operations. Unfortunately the increased production was insufficient to recoup contractors' losses in the 1936 and 1937 seasons and the prospects for 1939 are extremely dull.

The Belize mill continued the sawing of mahogany lumber chiefly for the United Kingdom market and it is worthy of note that the lumber export is maintained on a fairly steady basis and is not greatly affected by the wild fluctuations of the log export trade. An increase in the proportion of lumber in the mahogany exports would undoubtedly put this trade on a more stable basis.

The following figures show the domestic exports of mahogany and cedar logs and lumber in the last three years:—

	1936.	*1937.*	*1938.*
	1,000 s. ft.	*1,000 s. ft.*	*1,000 s. ft.*
Mahogany logs	4,843	5,112	9,771
Mahogany lumber	3,713	4,867	2,737
Cedar logs	247	219	414
Cedar lumber	46	68	10

There has been a considerable increase in recent years in the over exploitation of the mahogany forests by the removal of small and immature wood. This is clearly reflected by the measurement sheets which show that in 1937, 53 per cent. and in 1938, 48 per cent. of the number of logs exported were less than 18 ins. in diameter at the small end.

The price of chicle rose slightly and there was a slight increase in production. Exports have not varied greatly for some years. There were still no re-exports of chicle from Peten.

Both logwood and rosewood exports decreased considerably. Logwood timber is practically unsaleable and the Colony's rosewood has restricted uses only which do not permit any great expansion of market.

The trade in cohune nuts shipped whole to the United States of America continues on a small scale. The cracking plant in Toledo remained unused during the year.

Agriculture.

The weather was exceptionally dry during the first quarter of the year. In the period, April to June, sufficient rain occurred for the needs of the crops. Heavy rains commenced in July and continued throughout August and September. In certain areas flooding occurred in September. During October and November rains were fairly heavy throughout the Colony, but eased up during December. In the north of the Colony rains tended to be light throughout the year.

The Agricultural Settlement in the Rockstone Pond area which was commenced in March, 1937, has attracted additional settlers and all vacant plots have been taken up. With the exception of one or two families, who have had to relinquish their holdings for one reason or another, the settlers appear to have made some progress. Work on feeder roads was given to the settlers for a certain period each week to provide for their immediate wants; this practice has had to be continued for a considerably longer period than was at first anticipated. The greater part of the loans granted to the settlers for the supply of seed and tools has been repaid.

The Board of Agriculture continues to be of great assistance to producers of rice and particularly of maize, and unexpectedly large amounts of both were purchased during the last three months of the year. This has caused acute difficulties in relation to the provision of storage.

Rice.—Increased areas of rice have been planted during the year. This may be partly due to the setback in the banana industry, but it is considered that the existence of the rice mills and the good prices offered by the Board of Agriculture for paddy have materially contributed to the result.

Bananas.—Banana growing still occupies the attention of many planters. The output has been disappointing and is due to a combination of factors. The dry weather in the early part of the year was detrimental to the production of fruit of good quality on the poorer soils. Panama Disease is prevalent throughout the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts, while Sigatoka Leaf Disease, which has now spread throughout the Colony, rapidly extended during the wet autumn months.

The best qualities of fruit come from El Cayo District where there appear to be some soils eminently suitable for banana cultivation. The quality of the fruit from the Northern River and Santa Ana areas is on the whole poor, and the general soil conditions suggest that plantations in this region are only likely to be profitable for a very small number of years.

Export of bananas and plantains are shown in the following table:—

	1936.		*1937.*		*1938.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Bananas, bunches	696,127	244,238	938,985	330,491	776,172	282,890
Plantains, number	198,200	2,314	272,600	2,228	37,500	308

Coconuts and Copra.—The industry commenced the year under the disadvantage of low prices, an aftermath of the previous year. No improvement occurred until the third quarter. Exports are tabulated below:—

	1936.		*1937.*		*1938.*	
	Quantity.	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.*	*Value.* $
Coconuts, No.	4,310,110	63,930	4,938,980	76,907	4,779,290	49,803
Copra, lb. ...	425,996	10,456	357,708	10,975	285,250	6,868

Citrus Industry.—In the first quarter there was a shortage of fruit and this coupled with low prices led to only small shipments coming forward. Owing to heavy flowering in the early part of the year crop expectations have been good. In spite of lower prices than in 1938 the output in cases of grapefruit doubled. The export of processed grapefruit and of other citrus fruit remained about the same as in 1938.

The Corozal Producers' Association, Ltd., shipped a small quantity of fruit.

The following table shows exports during the last three years:—

	1936.		*1937.*		*1938.*	
	Quantity. *Cwt.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.* *Cwt.*	*Value.* $	*Quantity.* *Cwt.*	*Value.* $
Grapefruit ...	18,781	41,177	14,280	31,430	40,282	84,423
Oranges	291	537	315¾	587	255	428
Tangerines and Mandarines	181	326	169½	315	—	—
Miscellaneous (Lemons, etc.)	—	—	15¼	28	23	49
Grapefruit, canned	1,416	8,381	804½	4,663	930	4,960
Grapefruit, juice...	612	2,703	26	140	852	3,770

Sugar.—The weather conditions during the early part of the year were excellent for reaping, and by the end of the season 11,000 tons of sugar cane had been reaped. On the other hand the prolongation of the dry season hampered replanting and retarded the ratoons, with the result that the anticipated increase in output is not as great as the increase in acreage would appear to indicate as probable.

Grain, Pulse and Groundcrops.—In the early part of the year there was a shortage of maize, but beans were plentiful. Owing to the stimulus given by the Board of Agriculture a much larger area of maize was planted than in previous years, and production consequently showed a very marked increase.

Cassava.—The majority of this crop is still grown by the Caribs for local consumption, but the existence of a factory for the manufacture of cassava products has led to the planting of fairly large additional acreages.

Livestock.—Although interest in this branch of the agricultural industry is increasing, difficulties of transport and the lack of adequate contact between producers and consumers are handicaps to rapid progress. Inferior types of cattle continue to be imported in spite of the imposition of a duty of $6.00 per head, presumably on account of the greater regularity of the supply.

The pig industry of Toledo suffered a setback during the latter part of the year owing to an outbreak of rabies and the enforcement of a stand-still order.

Agricultural Education.—About 20 recognized school gardens have been established with the object of stimulating interest in plants and ultimately in agriculture among the children attending the schools, and imparting a rural bias to educational effort.

VII.—COMMERCE.

There was considerable increase in the amount of mahogany logs, chicle and grapefruit exported in 1938 as compared with the previous year. The exports of mahogany lumber decreased. As in the past practically all of the lumber went to the United Kingdom and the bulk of the logs to the United States.

Exports of bananas decreased considerably.

The total trade of the Colony amounted to $7,267,475, which was more by $683,626 than the total of $6,583,849 in 1937.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the Colony during the last five years are shown in the following table:—

	1934.	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Imports	1,912,375	2,676,795	3,272,833	3,981,249	4,004,091
Exports	1,520,917	1,699,043	2,413,851	2,602,600	3,263,384
Trade	3,433,292	4,375,838	5,686,684	6,583,849	7,267,475

The following table shows the percentages of trade with the Empire and the United States of America and other foreign countries in 1938 compared with the trade of 1920:—

	Imports.		*Exports.*		*Trade.*	
	1920.	1938.	1920.	1938.	1920.	1938.
United Kingdom and British Possessions	17·45	31·91	14·88	16·23	16·17	24·87
United States of America	60·44	30·78	78·18	72·84	69·31	49·67
Other Countries	22·11	37·31	6·94	10·93	14·52	25·46

Imports.

The imports in 1938 amounted to $4,004,091 as against $3,981,249 in 1937, an increase of $22,842. The direction of the import trade during the years 1934–1938 is shown in the following table :—

	1934.		1935.		1936.		1937.		1938.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	466,733	24·40	731,396	27·32	872,252	26·65	873,759	21·94	763,168	19·06
Canada	200,610	10·49	263,719	9·85	268,679	8·21	325,993	8·19	322,677	8·06
Other British Possessions	49,675	2·60	105,370	3·93	129,463	3·95	180,258	4·53	191,870	4·79
United States of America	684,776	35·81	746,257	27·87	950,397	29·03	1,236,603	31·06	1,232,608	30·78
Mexico	284,344	14·87	528,529	19·74	734,273	21·82	900,176	22·61	984,909	24·60
Other Countries	226,237	11·83	301,524	11·29	317,769	10·34	464,460	11·67	508,859	12·71

Exports.

Exports amounted to $3,263,384 in 1938 or $660,784 more than the total of $2,602,600 in 1937.

The following table gives the distribution of the exports during the years 1934–1938 :—

	1934.		1935.		1936.		1937.		1938.	
	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.	$	Per cent.
United Kingdom ...	288,722	18·98	317,510	18·82	405,720	16·80	418,672	16·08	414,424	12·72
Canada	31,336	2·06	50,450	2·97	47,840	1·98	32,680	1·26	111,066	3·40
Other British Possessions	118,200	7·77	55,362	3·26	18,991	0·78	6,159	0·24	4,138	0·12
United States of America	953,131	61·48	1,059,394	62·35	1,583,475	65·59	1,733,640	66·61	2,377,166	72·84
Other Countries	129,528	9·71	216,327	12·60	357,825	14·85	411,449	15·81	356,590	10·92

Domestic exports amounted to $1,816,274, an increase of $393,654 over the 1937 total. Exports of mahogany logs and lumber amounted to 57·32 per cent. of the total.

A comparative statement of the quantities of the major exports for the last four years is given below:—

		1938.	*1937.*	*1936.*	*1935.*
Mahogany logs	cubic feet	814,219	426,037	403,547	159,500
Mahogany lumber	„ „	228,060	305,605	310,043	353,567
Chicle	lb.	880,455	659,916	767,128	735,240
Bananas	bunches	776,172	938,985	696,127	356,056

A summary of the shipping trade, distinguishing between sailing, steam and motor vessels, and British and foreign nationalities, is shown hereunder. The total tonnage was 519,480, an increase of 96,261 as compared with the previous year.

ENTERED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	488	82,698	83,186
United States of America ...	120	46,688	46,808
Other	1,279	129,450	130,729
Total	1,887	258,836	260,723

CLEARED.

Nationality.	*Sailing vessels.*	*Steamships and motor boats.*	*Total tonnage.*
British	310	85,846	86,156
United States of America ...	—	44,625	44,625
Other	1,334	126,642	127,976
Total	1,644	257,113	258,757

The total tonnage during the last five years was:—

Year.	*Inwards.*	*Outwards.*	*Total.*
1934	247,914	243,335	491,249
1935	202,654	204,523	407,177
1936	207,702	208,360	416,062
1937	213,804	209,415	423,219
1938	260,723	258,757	519,480

VIII.—LABOUR.

Accurate figures are not available as to the number of labourers in the Colony but these are estimated at 6,000, divided into four groups:—

I.	Mahogany	14 per cent.
II.	Chicle	16 „ „
III.	Agricultural	16 „ „
IV.	General	54 „ „

The supply of labour under Groups II, III and IV is adequate and exceeds the demand but difficulty is sometimes experienced by mahogany contractors in securing experienced woodcutters—Group I.

No system of recruiting existed. Necessary legislation was enacted to provide for the introduction of the system but the rules supplementing the Ordinance will be passed during 1939 whereupon the Ordinance will be enforced.

Groups I to III are engaged under contracts of from three to nine months' duration, the contract being the employer's security against the advance given. Group IV consists principally of labourers employed by the Government on road work and by shipping companies and others in general manual labour. These, with few exceptions, are employed for short periods only and do not serve under a contract.

Legislation enacted during the year affecting labour were Ordinances Nos. 25 and 27. The former regularized the system of recruiting whilst the latter amended "The Masters and Servants Ordinance," Chapter 106 of the Consolidated Laws, by the removal of penal sanctions.

Ordinance No. 6/1938 was passed on the 14th April, 1938. This established a Provident Fund for the benefit of teachers during illness and for pension during old age.

There was no legislation regarding factories or compensation for accidents.

There was no Labour Department or Inspectorate in existence in 1938. A record of unemployed labourers was kept by the Public Works Department and these were given work on the roads in rotation.

Arrangements were made for the setting up of a Labour Department as from the 1st January, 1939.

IX.—WAGES AND COST OF LIVING.

The average wages paid are:—

Mahogany Labourers	$20·00 per month (including rations to the value of about 25 cents. per day).
Chicle ,,	$240–$300 per season (June to March). Piece work—excluding rations.
Agricultural ,,	$12·00 per month—without rations.
General ,,	$1·00 per day without rations.

The first three classes are provided with passages to and from the operations and with free huts.

The official ration scale is seven quarts flour and four lb. salted pork per man per week but generally this serves only as a basis of computation and labourers may receive from employers' commissaries other items in substitution.

The wages paid to industrial or skilled workers is as follows:—

Carpenters ...	$1·00 to $1·75 per day.
Shipwrights ...	$1·50 to $2·00 per day.
Masons	$1·50 to $2·50 per day.
Painters	$1·00 to $1·50 per day.

The average hours of employment is 51, weekly.

In the domestic services wages are:—

Cooks	$1·00 to $3·00 weekly.
Housemaids ...	$1·00 to $2·50 ,,
Laundresses ...	$1·00 to $2·00 ,,

These wages include board for cooks and housemaids but lodging is not provided save in a few instances.

In the out-districts the wages paid to industrial workers and for domestic service are slightly lower.

The cost of living is moderate. The common articles of diet are rice, corn, flour, sugar, beans, peas, ground provisions (cassava, yams, etc.), fresh and salted fish, fresh and pickled pork, beef, lard substitute, condensed milk, plantains, and eggs and fruit in small quantities.

From a small survey of the cost of living of the average labourer held in Belize during the year, the following results were shown:—

Average number of children per family	2·3
,, ,, ,, persons ,, ,,	4·4
,, weekly wages	$5·06
,, ,, rent	$0·79
,, amount spent for food weekly	$3·21

The average cost of living for Europeans is as follows:—

In Belize.—Hotels—$2.00 to $3.50 per day.
Boarding houses—$2.00 a day; $50.00 to $60.00 per month.

In the out-districts there are no hotels or boarding houses available except at Corozal. The cost of living generally slightly higher than in Belize.

X.—EDUCATION AND WELFARE INSTITUTIONS.

In consequence of a report made by Mr. B. H. Easter, M.B.E., Director of Education, Jamaica, in 1934, various changes have been made in the educational system of the Colony and others are under consideration. The system of elementary education is that of subsidized denominational church schools, and is controlled by a Board of Education appointed under the Education Ordinance, 1926 (No. 14 of 1926 as amended by No. 38 of 1935). Compulsory attendance is enforced in nearly all parts of the Colony and the number of schools included in these areas is 63, 56 being grant-aided. The school officers of compulsory attendance areas are generally police constables and first alcaldes in Indian and Carib villages, except in Belize, where a civilian is employed; steps are being taken to extend the application of the law to aided schools not included in existing compulsory areas.

With the assistance of a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, three Jeanes Supervisors of Schools began work in the Colony in 1937. Their attention is devoted chiefly to improving the standard of teaching and the curriculum and to the training of pupil teachers.

Grants-in-aid from general revenue are based principally on the average monthly attendance of children between five and sixteen years of age, and are applied towards the salaries of the teaching staff of the schools, and the provision and upkeep of buildings and equipment.

The total grants for the year in respect of elementary education amounted to $71,792.63, average grant per head of average attendance in aided elementary schools was $10.13.

The total cost to the Government, including administration, was $78,628.05, average cost per head including administration charges $11.09.

There is a number of unaided elementary schools, both denominational and private, throughout the Colony.

No provision is made for technical education but instruction in handicrafts and domestic science is given to a limited number of children at three centres in Belize, and the teaching of agriculture is being encouraged in rural schools by instruction grants to teachers and by free grants of tools. There is a Government Industrial School in the Stann Creek Valley where training in agriculture and farming are the principal features.

Secondary education is provided in the following five schools conducted by the religious denominations:—St. Hilda's College for Girls (Anglican), St. Catherine's Academy for Girls (Roman Catholic), St. Michael's College for Boys (Anglican), Wesley College for Boys (Methodist), and St. John's College for Boys (Roman Catholic); kindergarten departments for boys as well as girls are conducted in connection with St. Hilda's College and St. Catherine's Academy. These schools prepare their pupils for the Local Examinations of the University of Cambridge. They receive Government aid in the form of scholarships, of which 65 were provided by Government during 1938, their total value being $3,575.

Particulars as to the enrolment and attendance of the various kinds of schools are:—

Kind of School.	*No.*	*Enrolment.*			*Pupils in Average Attendance.*		
		Boys.	*Girls.*	*Total.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*
Aided Elementary ...	78	4,726	4,333	9,059	3,677	3,339	7,016
Unaided Elementary ...	28	463	509	972	370	405	775
Secondary	5	159	297	456	150	270	420
Total ...	111	5,348	5,139	10,487	4,197	4,014	8,211

XI.—COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT.

Except for traffic between the District of Cayo and the Peten District of Guatemala where carriage is by mules, internal transport in the Colony is carried on mostly by means of its many rivers (in motor-boats, pit-pans and doreys), but there is also a frequent passenger and freight air service between Belize and Cayo, Punta Gorda, Stann Creek and Corozal furnished by the Transportes Aereos Centro-Americanos (Taca) which has an airplane stationed in Belize for the purpose.

With a grant from the Colonial Development Fund one main road is being constructed from Punta Gorda (Toledo District) to the Indian town of San Antonio, a distance of about 21 miles. Of this road, 17 miles have already been completed and are open to traffic throughout the year. Another main road under construction is that from Belize to Corozal via the town of Orange Walk, a total distance of 99 miles; 85 miles are now open to motor traffic. In connection with this road a bridge of reinforced concrete has been built across the Belize River at Haulover, about 5 miles from Belize.

In addition to the above about 50 miles of "dry-weather" road have been built from Belize towards Cayo, but another 40 miles must be constructed before this frontier town can be reached from the capital by motor transport.

A short railway from Commerce Bight, in the Stann Creek District, runs 25 miles inland through very fertile country. This is being converted from a railway to a road, 6 miles of which have been completed.

The Burdon Canal connects the Belize and Sibun Rivers. Another canal connects the Sibun River with Northern Lagoon.

No tramcar or omnibus service exists in the towns. Transport of passengers is done by motor-cars, and of goods by motor-trucks and drays.

Coastwise transport is done by means of motor vessels and sailing boats. External transport is carried on entirely by sea.

There is a steamship service between Belize and New Orleans weekly via Puerto Barrios, about once a week via Cuba and Jamaica and approximately once a month direct by ships of the United Fruit Company. Small schooners provide a somewhat irregular service between Belize and Tampa, Florida, and New Orleans.

The Canadian National steamships provide a fortnightly service between Belize and Kingston, Jamaica, connecting with the Bahamas, Bermuda and Canada.

Ships of the Harrison Line from Liverpool, and ships of the Royal Netherlands Steamship Line from Amsterdam, via the West Indies, call about once a month.

There is regular and frequent communication with the neighbouring Republics by both steamers and sailing vessels.

A weekly air mail and passenger service through Mexico to the United States, was provided by the planes of the Chiapas Air Transport Company, and a similar service is maintained between Belize and the Republic of Honduras, Guatemala and other southern points by planes of the " Taca " Company.

There are 28 post offices in the Colony. The number of articles dealt with in 1938 was 925,000. Money and postal order business amounting to $63,696 internal and $66,992 foreign was done in 1938.

There are 72 telephone offices (transacting also telegraph business). The local telegraph system is connected by cable across the Rio Hondo with Chetumal, by means of which telegraph business is transacted through Mexico with countries abroad.

A wireless station exists in Belize for transacting radio-telegraph business with foreign stations. Daily communication was maintained with Stony Hill, Jamaica; Guatemala City and New Orleans, United States of America. During the year 1938 the number of radio telegrams transmitted was 6,443 and the number received was 6,301. The figures quoted above do not include messages relating to the conduct of the service, service messages, weather reports or Press messages.

XII.—PUBLIC WORKS.

In addition to construction and maintenance of Public Buildings, and public works in general, there has been under construction during the year several miles of roads in almost every district of the Colony.

Other public works carried out during the year include the construction of landing fields at Stann Creek, Punta Gorda and Corozal, and a Police Station at Barranco Village, widening the pier at Punta Gorda and extensive improvements to District Hospitals, Belize Prison and Lunatic Asylum.

XIII.—JUSTICE, POLICE, AND PRISONS.

Justice.

The English Common Law and all statutes of the Imperial Parliament "in abrogation or derogation, or in any way declaratory of the Common Law" passed before 1899 extend to the Colony as far as local circumstances render such extension suitable and subject to modification by Colonial Ordinances.

Petty civil courts (termed "District Courts") are established in each of the five magisterial districts. Each court is presided over by a Magistrate or District Commissioner who is *ex officio* judge of the Court.

The jurisdiction is limited to claims not exceeding $100. An appeal lies to the Supreme Court from any judgment or order of the District Court.

When dealing with cases which can be tried summarily, a Magistrate, District Commissioner or Justice of the Peace exercises jurisdiction under the Summary Jurisdiction Ordinances, and subject to these Ordinances, has also the powers, privileges, rights and jurisdiction conferred on Justices of the Peace by the Common Law of England. Appeals from the jurisdiction of Magistrates and District Commissioners lie to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court of British Honduras is governed by Chapter 153 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, and is presided over by the Chief Justice. The jurisdiction is the same as that of a High Court of Justice in England. Appeal lies from this Court to the Privy Council. The Court holds quarterly sessions at Belize, during January, April, July and October, and at Corozal similar sessions during March, June, September and December.

The following statistics show the number of criminal offences (excluding petty misdemeanours and petty offences) before the courts of the Colony during the year:—

Persons charged by police	1,448	
" " otherwise	160	
		1,608
Convicted summarily	1,243	
Acquitted summarily	281	
Committed to Supreme Court	72	
Dealt with otherwise	9	
Awaiting Trial, 1939	3	
		1,608
Convicted by Supreme Court	38	
Acquitted	20	
Nolle prosequi	10	
Adjourned to 1939	4	
		72

Police.

The British Honduras Police Force consists of three officers and 123 other ranks. There are 26 stations in the Colony, 18 of which are in telephonic communication.

The police are responsible for the supervision of aliens and undesirable immigrants, and are trained in traffic regulations and signals. Applicants for motor driver's licences are examined by the Police before the licences are granted by the Municipal Board.

Prisons.

The main prison in Belize is a substantial brick building with 102 separate cells, each having an average of 582 cubic feet of space. There are no association wards except the sick ward.

The prisoners are employed in association during the day in gangs outside, and in workshops indoors. At night separation is complete.

The female prison consists of a concrete building with six roomy cells each of approximately 700 cubic feet. In each of the four districts of the Colony there are small prisons which are really lock-ups. That of the Corozal District is the largest and is surrounded by concrete walls. Only prisoners who are sentenced to three months and under are confined in the District prisons. Prisoners sentenced to more than three months are sent to Belize prison. The District prisons are under the direct orders of the District Commissioner and are visited from time to time by the Superintendent of the prison at Belize, who reports on their condition and makes such recommendations as he may consider desirable.

There is no accommodation for the separation of juvenile offenders, but they are kept apart as much as possible from old offenders. Boys under 16 who commit offences are sent to the Government Industrial School at Pomona, Stann Creek. A Probation Officer has been appointed under the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance, 1932 (No. 7 of 1932), and the Probation of Offenders Ordinance, 1934 (No. 31 of 1934). The general health of the prisoners at the Belize prison was good.

Whenever it is considered desirable so to do, the Magistrate and District Commissioners allow time for payment of fines.

XIV.—LEGISLATION.

Thirty-three Ordinances were enacted during the year. Of these 14 either amended or repealed existing measures. The following are the more important enactments:—

No. 6 of 1938.—*The Teachers' Provident Fund Ordinance.*— To provide a provident fund for certain teachers in receipt of salary grants from public funds. The Ordinance follows closely the second edition of the Model Provident Fund Ordinance transmitted by the Secretary of State.

No. 16 of 1938.—*The Savings Bank Ordinance.*—This Ordinance, which repeals Chapter 34 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, is based on a model incorporating the recommendations contained in the report of a committee appointed by the Secretary of State to examine and report on the savings bank system in the Colonies.

No. 21 of 1938.—*The British Honduras Constitution and Electoral Qualifications and Regulations (Amendment) Ordinance.*—To increase by one the number of unofficial members of the Legislative Council to allow of the separate representation of the two districts which hitherto constituted the Southern Division.

No. 23 of 1938.—*The Public Health (Transfer of Powers) Ordinance.*—To transfer to the Senior Medical Officer all executive powers hitherto vested in the Central Board of Health and the municipal authorities.

No. 25 of 1938.—*The Recruiting of Workers Ordinance.*—To implement the provisions of the International Labour Convention concerning the regulation of certain special systems of recruiting workers.

No. 27 of 1938.—*The Masters and Servants (Amendment) Ordinance.*—To eliminate penal sanctions and substitute civil remedies.

No. 28 of 1938.—*The Consolidated Laws (New Edition) Ordinance.*—To authorize the consolidation and revision of the Laws and the Subsidiary Legislation of the Colony.

No. 32 of 1938.—*The Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic Ordinance.*—This Ordinance repeals existing legislation on the subject and makes new provision for the registration and licensing of motor vehicles and for the control of all road traffic. Provision is made for the establishment of a Transport Board to advise the Governor on all matters appertaining to road transport and traffic; the administration of the Ordinance is vested in the Licensing Authority. All fees and duties are to be paid into general revenue and not to the several municipal authorities as hitherto.

XV.—BANKING, CURRENCY, AND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

There is a branch of the Royal Bank of Canada at Belize. This was established in October, 1912, when the Bank of British Honduras was bought over as a going concern by the former.

Banking business of every character is conducted. There is no note issue. There is a Government Savings Bank with deposits totalling $410,631.57 at the end of the year.

There is no agricultural or co-operative bank.

Currency.

The standard of currency is the gold dollar of the United States of America. The British sovereign and half-sovereign are legal tender for $4.86 and $2.43, respectively. There is also a subsidiary silver currency of 50 cents, 25 cents, 10 cents and 5 cents, nickel 5-cent pieces and bronze 1-cent pieces, coined specially for the Colony. There is a paper currency, of 10, 5, and 2 dollars and 1 dollar issued by the Government. Notes of the United States of America are in circulation. The Government note issue is administered by Currency Commissioners.

On the 21st April, 1933, an Ordinance was assented to providing that notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 36 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, the silver coins of the Colony shall be legal tender in the Colony for all purposes and to any amount. A suspending clause provides for the bringing into operation of the Ordinance, by Proclamation, on such day as the Governor shall direct and appoint.

Weights and Measures.

The standard Imperial weights and measures are prescribed by the Weights and Measures Ordinance, Chapter 63 of the Consolidated Laws, 1924, but the following local weights and measures are also in use:—

Weights.

1 Arroba	25 lb.
1 Quintal	100 lb.

Dry Measure.

1 Almud	5 quarts.
1 Cargo	60 quarts.
1 Baril	110 quarts.
1 Benequen	15 quarts.
1 Quarto	2½ quarts or ½ almud.
1 Shushack	4 almuds or 20 quarts.

Land Measure.

1 Manzana	16 mecates.
1 Mecate	25 yards square.
1 Vara	$\frac{11}{12}$ ths of a yard.

The testing of weights and measures throughout the Colony is carried out periodically by the Police, who are the custodians of the Colonial standards.

XVI.—PUBLIC FINANCE AND TAXATION.

Revenue and Expenditure.

The financial year of the Colony comprises the period 1st January to 31st December.

The revenue for the Colony for the year ended 31st December, 1938, was $1,258,099. This sum excludes payments from the Colonial Development and Loan Funds totalling $482,503.

The revenue for the preceding year, excluding $36,675 from Imperial Funds and $325,539 paid from the Colonial Development and Loan Funds was $1,188,536.

The total expenditure for the year 1938 was $1,337,868 excluding $534,545 in respect of Colonial Development Fund grants and Loan Works.

The totals of " true " revenue and expenditure (i.e., excluding Colonial Development Fund moneys and the Loan-in-aid) for the last six years are given below:—

	Revenue.	*Expenditure.*
	$	$
1933–34	945,342 (*a*)	934,510 (*g*)
1934 (9 months)	510,477 (*b*)	791,899 (*h*)
1935	825,183 (*c*)	1,085,943 (*i*)
1936	992,092 (*d*)	1,077,937 (*j*)
1937	1,188,536 (*e*)	1,187,364 (*k*)
1938	1,258,099 (*f*)	1,337,868 (*l*)

(*a*) Excludes $103,600 loan-in-aid and $7,292 from the Colonial Development Fund, but includes $260,250 for investments realized, appreciation of investments and transfer of Widows' and Orphans' Pensions Fund.

(*b*) Excludes loan-in-aid $99,600 and $17,424 from the Colonial Development Fund.

(*c*) Excludes loan-in-aid $251,550 and receipts from the Colonial Development Fund amounting to $115,954.

(*d*) Excludes loan-in-aid $147,300 and receipts from Colonial Development and Loan Funds $458,148.

(*e*) Excludes loan-in-aid $36,675 and receipts from Colonial Development Fund and Loan Funds amounting to $325,539.

(*f*) Excludes receipts from Colonial Development Fund and Loan Funds amounting to $482,503.

(*g*) Excludes $23,722 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*h*) Excludes $24,912 for Colonial Development Fund Works.

(*i*) Excluding $256,013 for Colonial Development Fund Works, but includes $75,501 due to the abolition of certain Boards.

(*j*) Excluding $299,201 for Colonial Development Fund Works and $11,577 for loan works.

(*k*) Excludes $378,421 for Colonial Development Fund and Loan Works.

(*l*) Excludes $534,545 for Colonial Development Fund and Loan Works.

At the close of the year the public debt stood at $3,337,210. The total of the accumulated sinking fund towards redemption of the funded portion of debt was $464,588.

Loan Investments of the Colony totalled $675.220.

Assets and Liabilities.

The assets, which consist chiefly of investments, advances, building and Company loans and cash in hand, amounted at 31st December, 1938, to a total of $488,482. The main liability was:—

Savings Bank, $418,055.

There is a Public Officers' Guarantee Fund with a balance of $9,298. The difference is made up of sundry deposits.

Taxation.

The main heads of taxation are:—

1. Customs Import and Export Duties.
2. Excise Duties.
3. Land Tax.
4. Income Tax.
5. Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies.
6. Fines of Courts.
7. Estate Duty.
8. Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.
9. Warehouse Rent.

Customs Import Duties are principally on an *ad valorem* basis with specific duties on wines, spirits and tobacco. The general *ad valorem* rate is 12½ per cent. and 25 per cent. under the British preferential and general tariffs, respectively. There is a package tax of 10 cents per package.

Export Duties are collected on mahogany and cedar logs (but not on sawn timber), chicle, including re-exports, and liquors re-exported other than those produced locally.

Excise Duty at the rate of $3.00 per proof gallon is imposed on rum manufactured in the Colony and intended for home consumption.

Land Tax at the rate of 1½ cents an acre is paid on all lands other than land in a town. Lands served by the Stann Creek Railway pay an additional tax of 8½ cents an acre if within one mile of the Railway or 4 cents if within two miles.

The *Income Tax* rate is low, the tax on chargeable incomes up to $30,000 being 7·3 per cent. only.

Fines of Court are casual; and Estate Duty is fixed at a very low rate as the aggregate annual yield will show.

The principal *Stamp Duties* are 3 cents on cheques, receipts and bills of exchange, and 10 cents per $100 on promissory notes. On transfers of property and mortgages the rates are 25 and 10 cents respectively for every $50.00 or part thereof.

Warehouse rents are charged on merchandise which is deposited in bond principally for re-export.

The following table shows the yield of each head during the last five years:—

	*1934.**	*1935.*	*1936.*	*1937.*	*1938.*
	$	$	$	$	$
Customs, Import, and Export Duties.	265,103	404,966	494,905	528,692	563,335
Excise Duties	35,343	50,681	59,192	75,323	76,104
Land Tax...	13,607	30,845	32,504	38,945	42,402
Income Tax	6,515	26,520	21,869	24,425	33,965
Licences, Banks and Fire Insurance Companies.	130	1,114	1,052	1,072	1,098
Fines of Courts	2,517	2,922	4,665	6,026	4,643
Estate Duty	4,658	456	1,008	3,572	4,966
Fees of Courts and Stamp Duties.	4,877	9,001	11,868	13,432	15,459
Warehouse Rent ...	8,869	14,923	16,877	19,520	16,617

* 9 months April to December, 1934.

XVII.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Lands and Survey.

During the year 1938, 185 town and village lots were leased to 177 applicants. Including two grazing leases, which comprised 265 acres, and two cays, there were 1,202 acres of land leased to 19 applicants. Location Tickets containing conditions as to cultivation and payment by semi-annual instalments were issued to 346 applicants in respect of 8,852 acres. Ten town and village lots were sold to six applicants.

Free grants comprising 337 acres in 24 parcels and one town lot were approved; of these 231 acres were granted for service in the Defence Force. One acre of land was granted for religious and educational purposes.

One title for a lot at St. George's Cay, 18 titles for town lots and five titles for an area of 320 acres were issued. Thirty-seven Location Tickets were cancelled for non-payment of instalments and at the request of holders.

APPENDIX.

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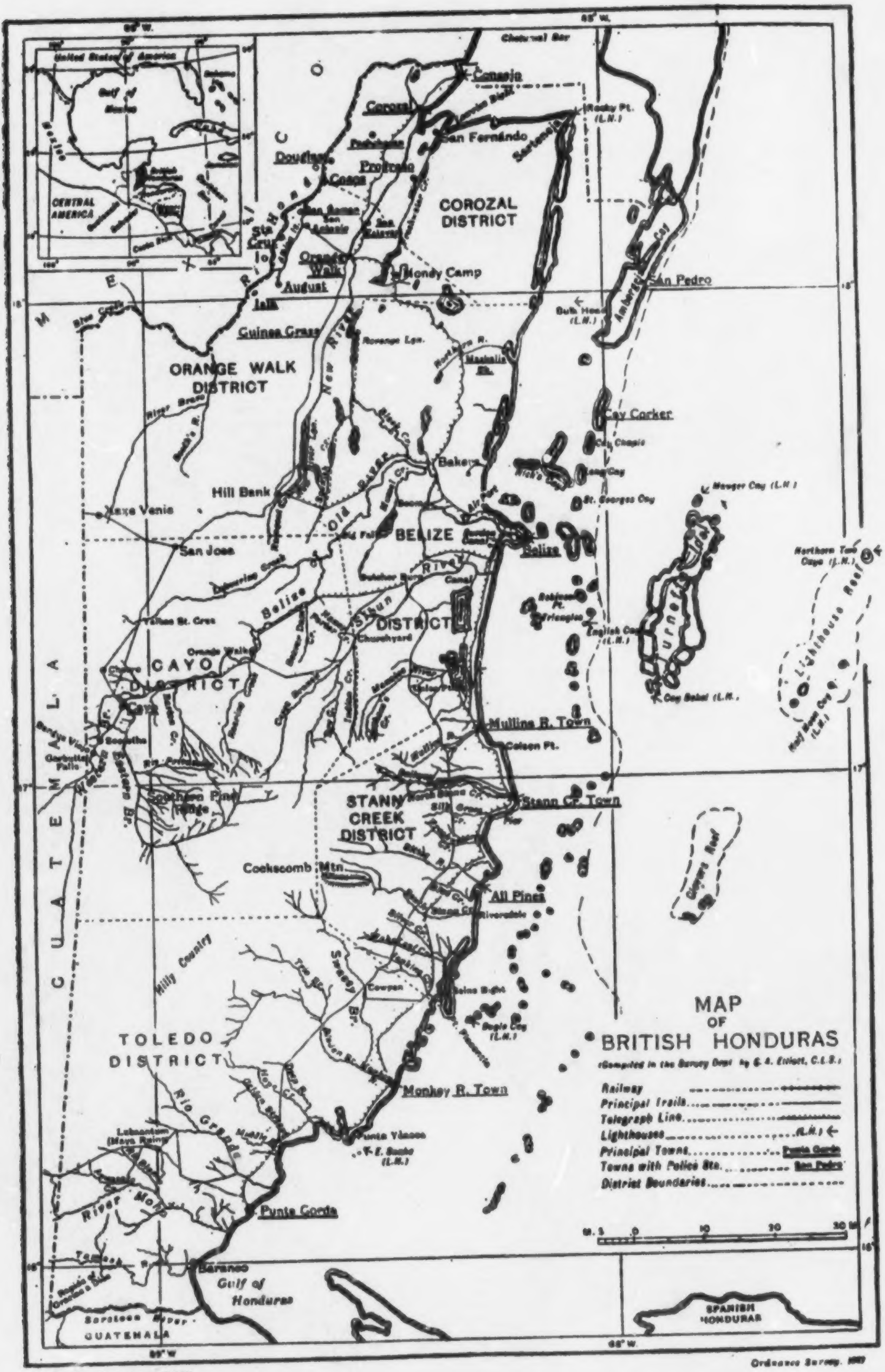
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Railway
Principal Trails
Telegraph Line
Lighthouses (L.H.) ←
Principal Towns Punta Gorda
Towns with Police Sta. San Pedro
District Boundaries
0
10
20
30
89° W
88° W
United States of America
Gulf of Mexico
CENTRAL AMERICA
Chetumal Bay
Consejo
Corozal
Douglas
Progreso
San Fernando
COROZAL DISTRICT
Orange Walk
August
Honey Camp
San Pedro
Ambergris Cay
Guinea Grass
ORANGE WALK DISTRICT
New River
Cay Corker
Bakers
Hill Bank
Xaxe Venic
San Jose
Old River
BELIZE
Belize
Turneffe Islands
Northern Two Cays (L.H.)
Lighthouse Reef
Half Moon Cay (L.H.)
Cay Bokel (L.H.)
English Cay (L.H.)
Mauger Cay (L.H.)
St. Georges Cay
Belize River
Sibun River
DISTRICT
Churchyard
CAYO DISTRICT
Cayo
Mullins R. Town
Stann Cr. Town
STANN CREEK DISTRICT
Southern Pine Ridge
Cockscomb Mtn
All Pines
Glovers Reef
Hilly Country
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